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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 254

MONDAY DECEMBER 23, 2013

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POLL RESULTS

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Sunday, December 22, 2013

INSIDE

LOCAL



Operation 'Christmas Drop' delivers relief to typhoon-hit Kayangel Island in Palau.

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Historic Mount Carmel stage is resurrected after nearly two decades of neglect.

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The wine list at Mariana Resort & Spa's 12th Night Restaurant has gone paperless.

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Man gets max sentence for sex abuse of minor. **PAGE 3**
Mission accomplished! Forager Fury II ends. **PAGE 6**

US Senate panel OKs extending CW1, E2C programs up to 2019

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources cleared on Thursday (Friday, CNMI time) an omnibus territories bill that would extend up to 2019 the current CNMI-only worker and E2C investor programs that are supposed to end after Dec. 31, 2014.

The bill, S. 1237, however, still has to go through full U.S. Senate and House of Representatives for a vote before heading to President Barack Obama.

This comes as the CNMI awaits U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez's decision to extend the transition period. That decision is expected to come out in January. The omnibus territories bill will extend that transition period only until 2019.

See **SENATE** on **Page 4**

November visitor arrivals up 2 pct.

November 2013 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands increased by 2 percent compared to November 2012. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 33,678 visitors in November 2013 compared to 32,894 in November 2012.

Arrivals from Japan dropped 18 percent in November to 8,233 visitors. Delta Air Lines reduced their night flight DL288 from daily ser-

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Inos swears in new judge

» **Senate confirms Inos' 4 nominees including Labor secretary**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos swore into office yesterday his legal counsel, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, as the newest associate judge of the CNMI Superior Court, two days after the Senate confirmed her and three other governor's appointees, including CNMI Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero.

were present at the swearing in, press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

"I pledge to diligently serve our community in my new capacity by safeguarding the law and the rights of all individuals who appear before the court," Kim-Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* on Saturday.



Kim-Tenorio

She is now the only woman on the local bench and only the third female judge to serve in the CNMI Judiciary.

The schedule for Kim-Tenorio's public investiture will be announced soon, Demapan said.

"I sincerely thank all the mem-

See **JUDGE** on **Page 4**

\$20K bonus for Hart in new contract

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Over seven months after the Board of Regents approved retaining Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart for another two years, her new contract was finally signed last week, under similar terms but

tain the continued momentum of the significant work that has been done up until this point. The board



Hart

has recognized, and through these efforts, demonstrated how important continued leadership is for the institution," Rabauliman told *Saipan Tribune*.

The board unanimously voted in April to extend Hart's em-

ployment contract for two years. Her contract expired in July 5, 2013.

Saipan Tribune learned that Hart and Rabauliman formally

See **BONUS** on **Page 4**

FRESHENED UP MEMORIAL

One of two artillery pieces stands guard as the flags of the United States and the CNMI go up during Friday's unveiling of the enhanced U.S. Armed Forces Memorial in Oleai.

MARK RABAGO

Story on **Page 17**



Local

**CONFIRMED!**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Eloy Inos is joined by senators soon after the Senate confirmed the appointments of Teresa Kim-Tenorio as the CNMI's newest associate judge and Edith DeLeon Guerrero as Labor secretary on Friday on Rota.

FAA to issue 'plan' for divert activities on Tinian

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is presently working with the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration on the proposed U.S. Air Force divert activities in the CNMI and the federal agency is expected to issue an implementation plan to ensure

safety in all operations.

On Dec. 16, CPA and its board made this clear to U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Patrick C. Malackowski in a letter, emphasizing the position of the agency on the issue of divert activities on the islands. It will be recalled that the Air Force wants its training activities on Saipan, a plan opposed by the ports au-

thority and other sectors.

According to CPA chair Jose Lifofoi and the agency's executive director, MaryAnn Lizama, CPA has been asked to give its input or position on the location of the Air Force divert activities. In their joint letter on Monday, they reiterated their choice of Tinian as best site for the planned military activities.

"With this, CPA will take steps toward the submission of the Tinian Airport Layout Plan to the FAA. However, prior to submitting the Tinian ALP, CPA would like to meet with the USAF to discuss, formalize and coordinate the terms and conditions for the use of the Tinian Airport/Airfield by the USAF," stated the two officials.

Malackowski was assured that CPA will provide as much assistance and coordination to support the activities of the U.S. Air Force.

"CPA is presently working with the FAA on an 'implementation plan' that will coordinate and guide military operations and training on CPA's civilian facilities. The priority is to ensure the safety in all operations by all parties as well as pro-

vide for a coordinated working partnership between the commercial/civilian airlines and the USAF and other Department of Defense units," Lizama said.

CPA is firm in its position not to allow Air Force divert activities and exercises to occur at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport, and there's no plan to reconsider or change this stand. In early board meetings, members disclosed that the Air Force continue to think that divert activities may happen on Saipan.

It was in June this year when CPA formally rejected the proposed divert airfield project to happen on Saipan and instead approved the activities to be held at the Tinian airport. CPA voted on this decision after it received the Air Force divert airport layout plan. The decision

was also sent to the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, which concurred with the action. CPA wants the Saipan airport to be spared from any military operations because it is a commercial airport.

A few months ago, the U.S. Air Force submitted the layout plan in the hopes that it will be approved by CPA and FAA. The military had emphasized that the use of airports is important to the defense and security of the islands.

Some two-thirds of Tinian lands are under lease to the U.S. Department of Defense and they have been used for military training in preparation for the military buildup in Guam, which involves the transfer of military personnel from Okinawa, Japan.

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Ex-acting DFW chief pleads not guilty; trial moved to May

Former acting CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife director Raymond Borja Roberto pleaded not guilty last week to two charges that accused him of paying for sex with two minors.

Roberto, who appeared with privately retained counsel, Joaquin Torres, pleaded not guilty to two counts of coercion and enticement of a minor.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Torres' motion to move the trial date from Jan. 21, 2014, to May 12, 2014.

Manglona, however, stated that she would allow a request by the parties to reset the May 12 jury trial to an earlier date once the parties meet and confer regarding the change in scheduling.

In granting the defense's motion to move the trial, Manglona found the case to be complex and that "excludable delay was warranted for the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation by counsels."

Torres moved for the continuation of the Jan. 21 trial date due to the voluminous discovery materials they received from the prosecution, the superseding indictment, and the alleged additional victim.

Torres stated that there were still outstanding discovery materials yet to be received.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton informed the court that electronic items were seized and that they have been sent to Honolulu for forensic analysis.

Torres said the defense would need more time to review all the discovery materials received as to the additional alleged victim and that the defense is unsure when the forensic analysis would be concluded.

Torres asked that the trial be continued to late April 2014.

Naughton requested that the trial not be set on April 1, 2014, due to the Federal Bureau of Investigation special

agent assisting local police in an unrelated case that has been set for trial during that week in the Superior Court.

The original indictment charged the defendant with only one count of coercion and enticement of a minor that involved a minor.

According to the superseding indictment, from March 1, 2013 to about July 18, 2013, Roberto, "using a facility and means of interstate or foreign commerce, knowingly persuaded, induced, enticed and coerced" two minor girls to engage in sexual activity.

Saipan Tribune learned that Roberto served as acting CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife for only two days.

FBI agents arrested the defendant on Aug. 31 on charges of coercion and enticement. The case is related to the earlier arrest of firefighter Richard S. Benavente and suspected pimp Annette N. Basa. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Printing is funded by the Cooperative Agreement for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance and Integration.



Man gets 12 year, 6 month term for sex abuse of minor

A 58-year-old man was slapped with a maximum sentence of 12 years and six months in prison, to be served without the possibility of parole, for sexually abusing a 10-year-old girl on Saipan.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ordered Masaii Misasy Samuel to register as a sex offender.

After serving his sentence, Samuel, a Chuukese, will be transferred to the custody of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Division for deportation.

Samuel and counsel, assistant public defender Michael Sato, signed a plea deal with the government, represented by assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda.

Samuel pleaded guilty on Thursday to the offenses of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, indecent exposure in the second degree, and disturbing

the peace.

According to the plea deal, Samuel, who was 56 years old at the time, sniffed the girl's privates over her underwear in November 2012. He also exposed his privates to the girl, "all of which unreasonably annoyed, disturbed and deprived [her] of her right to peace and quiet."

Samuel was sentenced to the maximum 10 years in prison for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

For assault and battery, Samuel was sentenced to the maximum one year in prison.

For indecent exposure in the second degree, he was sentenced to a maximum of one year in prison.

For disturbing the peace, the defendant was sentenced to the maximum six months in prison.

Camacho said the sentences in all four counts shall run consecutively for a grand total of 12 years and six months to be

served day for day without the possibility of parole, work release, early release or any other similar programs.

Samuel was given credit for time served.

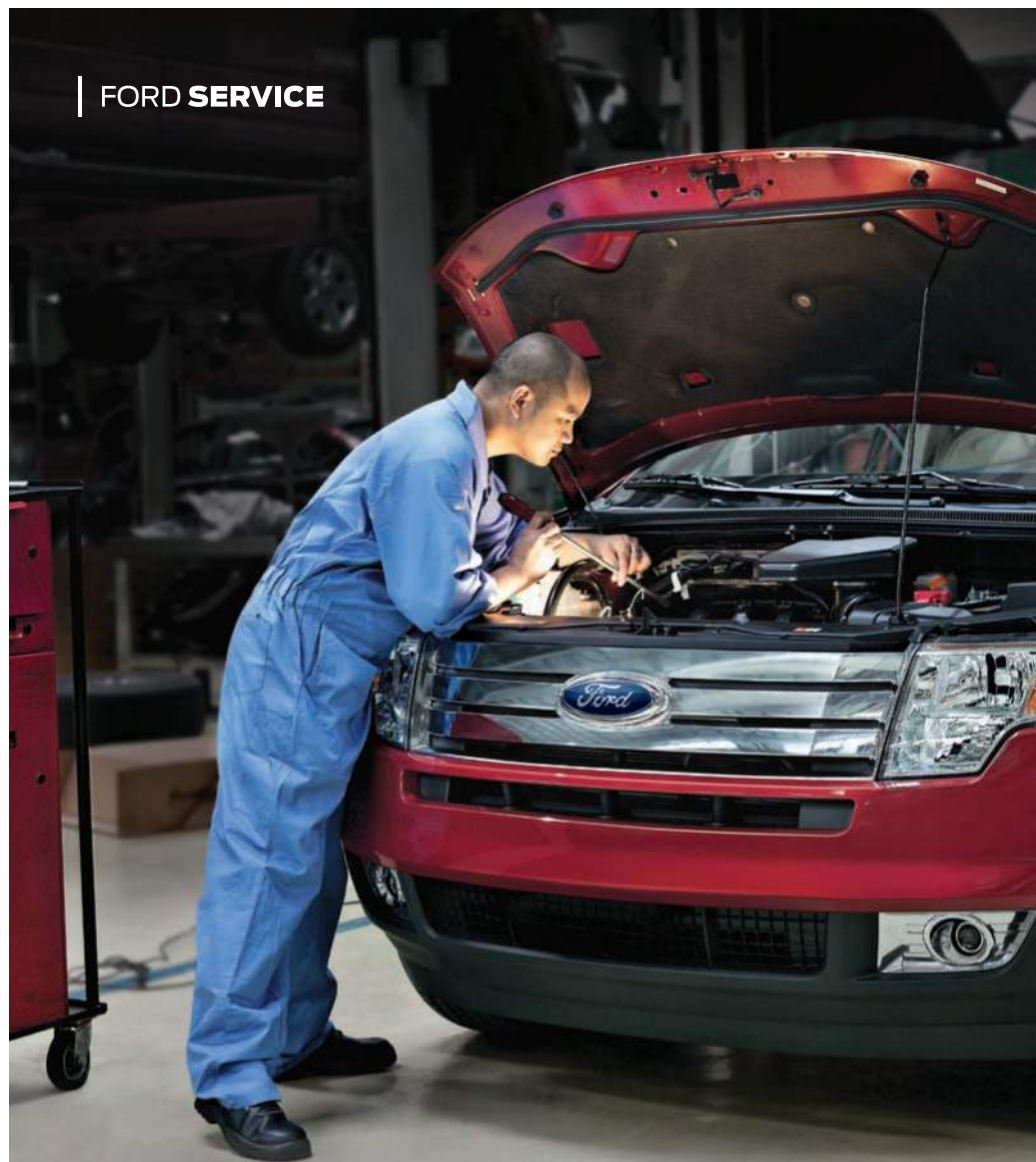
Police arrested Samuel in February.

Police detective Rudolfo Hermosilla stated in his report that, on Feb. 5, 2013, at 9:48pm, a police officer responded to a call of sexual abuse case at a house in Dandan.

Hermosilla said the girl confessed to her grandmother that Samuel sexually abused her on a Monday morning in November 2012.

The girl resisted by repeatedly punching Samuel's head. The defendant, however, continued sexually abusing her.

The detective said that during his interview last Feb. 11, Samuel admitted sexually abusing the girl, but denied there was penetration. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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6:00pm ~ 9:30pm

\$32 per adult & \$16 per children 4 ~ 11 years old

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December 25, 2013, Wednesday

11:00am ~ 2:00pm

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World Café Restaurant

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Defense bill with limits on NMI divert airfield heads to Obama

It is now up to President Barack Obama to set limits on the U.S. Air Force's development of divert airfield in the CNMI, after the U.S. Senate passed on Thursday (Friday, CNMI time) the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

As early as November, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said he and the Inos administration were looking at placing restrictions on the development of a divert airfield in the CNMI.

The CNMI is united in its stand to place a divert airfield on Tinian where two-thirds of lands are already under lease to the U.S. Department of Defense, instead of Saipan where the U.S. military has planned on placing it.

Sablan said the NDAA bars expenditure of \$29.3 million "allotted for construction of maintenance and storage buildings and a hazardous cargo pad, until the Air Force reports on all the alternatives considered for the divert field."

He said Congress expects "the Secretary of the Air Force to consult with the governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands regarding the location of projects to support divert field operations with the goal of achieving a mutually agreeable solution."

Sablan earlier said the CNMI does not want to lose the divert airfield project to another place such as Palau or the Philippines but it seeks conditions for the U.S. military if it insists on

placing the alternative airfield on Saipan instead of Tinian.

DoD has delayed the release of an environmental impact statement and Record of Decision on the proposed divert airfield that the U.S. Air Force can use in the event that access to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam is limited or denied.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier told the Air Force that its request to lease 33 acres of land on Saipan for the next 50 years "is quite an undesirable conclusion as it would impede future commercial development in the area."

Meanwhile, the NDAA, now up for presidential review and action, also requires DoD to report within 180 days on the feasibility of establishing a National Guard unit for the CNMI, a project that Sablan has been working on since 2011.

Another important component of the bill is a new sexual assault policy for the military. The bill provides legal counsel for victims, eliminates the statute of limitation for sexual assault-related courts-martial, requires civilian review of cases not prosecuted, and stipulates dishonorable discharge or dismissal for anyone convicted of sexual assault.

"Military commanders are stripped of their ability to overturn jury convictions; and retaliation against victims will carry criminal penalties. I strongly support efforts to combat sexual assaults in the military and in civilian life," Sablan added. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*

NOVEMBER

From Page 1

vice to five times a week effective Oct. 1 through Dec. 23. The 15-percent decline of air seat supply from Narita impacted the Japanese market heavily. In addition, the depreciation of the Japanese yen by 27 percent over the past year versus the U.S. dollar has made travel to the NMI for Japanese effectively 27 percent more expensive this November than in November last year. To help reboot the struggling Japan market, the MVA has launched a new Japan website on Dec. 16 to raise the online visibility of the CNMI in the Japan market and has extended the successful Group campaign to target less price-sensitive market segments.

Arrivals from Korea rose 4 percent in November to 12,350 visitors, more than any other source market. With the launch of Dynamic Airways' new direct service from Incheon to Saipan in October as the first low-cost carrier linking the Korea market with the NMI, the Korea market is seeing the introduction of a wide range of new travel products to the NMI with competitive prices. Dynamic Airways has announced its intention to double the number of flights

from Seoul to the NMI from two a week to four a week during the high season from Jan. 5 to Feb. 28, 2014, which will ensure continued strong growth in arrivals out of the Korea market into the New Year.

Meanwhile, arrivals from China jumped 17 percent in November to 9,631 visitors. The total number of Chinese visitors to the NMI from January to November 2013 has now exceeded 100,000 for the first time in history, reaching 107,379 as of the end of November, a 39-percent increase over 2012. Continued rapid growth is projected out of the China market as the NMI enters the New Year.

Arrivals from Russia nearly doubled, increasing 94 percent to 1,356 visitors to the NMI. While the total number of outbound travelers from Russia to all destinations worldwide is now falling compared to the same period in 2012, due to the ongoing economic slowdown in Russia, arrivals to the NMI continue to soar as a result of strong airlift from East Russia from AVIACHARTERS and Asiana Airlines. Continued strong growth of arrivals from Russia is projected for the New Year as the NMI becomes increasingly attractive with the onset of the freezing winter season. *(MVA)*

BONUS

From Page 1

signed the new contract last Wednesday on campus.

The new contract provides terms and conditions similar to Hart's old contract, giving her \$80,000 per annum, a car allowance, and leave benefits.

Rabauliman confirmed that included in the new agreement is a \$20,000 bonus that the board approved for her.

"Except for a bonus, the terms and conditions of the Northern Marianas College president's contract have not changed materially from those stipulated for the first two years of president Hart's term. The new contract provides for a \$20,000 bonus," said the chairman.

According to Rabauliman, former board chair Juan Lizama was originally tasked with negotiating the president's contract and continued to lead contract

negotiations after the election of new BOR officers, with Lizama appointed to head the BOR Personnel Committee.

"When I became chair, one of my priorities was to bring resolution to the pending negotiation of the president's contract. It was important to ensure that this issue be resolved before our meeting with the accrediting commission in January," said Rabauliman.

He said the NMC board conducts an annual evaluation of the president and the results of the evaluation were taken into account in setting the new contract. At the same time, the board also took into account Hart's accomplishments in meeting institutional goals and progress in addressing outstanding accreditation issues.

According to Rabauliman, the average base salary for presidents of NMC's peer institutions, which includes Guam Community College, was

\$150,000 a year ago. The mean base salary for community college CEOs in the nation is about \$174,000, according to a salary study conducted by the American Association of Community Colleges in 2012.

In the same study, it was determined that the median total tenure in CEO positions was 8 years and the mean was 9 years. Hart has been a community college CEO for a total of 12 years.

"The salary of the NMC president has not changed since the 1990s, and the board sees a need for an adjustment in the salary, not only to be able to retain effective leadership and talent, but also to bring the college closer to the level of compensation that is provided to presidents by our peer institutions," said Rabauliman, adding that this is the only increase the president has received since she took the helm of the college two and half years ago.

Meantime, Hart indicated

that maintaining the college's accreditation remains her key priority over the next several months.

"We continue to engage the whole campus community in addressing the accreditation issues that were raised by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges," said Hart. "We are also being proactive and strategic, and we are doing everything that we possibly can to ensure that this institution continues to play a central role in educating students and in meeting workforce needs."

According to Hart, "NMC plays an important role in the local economy, so it's in the CNMI's best interest that the college continues to remain accredited."

"The college is an economic engine for growth and development. Research clearly shows that the more educated a state or U.S. territory is, the stronger that economy becomes," added Hart.

JUDGE

From Page 1

bers of the Senate for their vote of confidence and for giving me this opportunity to serve our community as an associate judge for the CNMI Superior Court. I am also grateful to Honorable Governor Inos for attending the session in support of me and for his nominee for the Department of Labor, Ms. Edith Deleon Guerrero," Kim-Tenorio said.

The governor traveled to Rota to attend Friday's Senate session, wherein senators adopted a committee report recommending the four nominations' confirmations.

The new Labor secretary,

meanwhile, will be sworn in tomorrow.

During its session on Rota on Friday, the Senate confirmed by a vote of 8-0 each the nominations of Kim-Tenorio, DeLeon Guerrero, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board trustee Roy Rios of Saipan, and Commonwealth Development Authority board member Ignacio Perez of Tinian.

There is no schedule yet for Rios and Perez's swearing in.

Of the nine senators, only Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) didn't make it to the Rota session because of a death in the family.

The Inos administration is "very much pleased with the favorable action of the Senate on the governor's nominees," Demapan said.

"Governor Inos attended Friday's session on Rota, where the Senate's approval of his judicial nominee finally brings the Superior Court bench to completion. Governor Inos, after the session, noted that it was a good day in history as Associate Judge Kim-Tenorio becomes the only female on the bench now and only the third female judge to serve in the CNMI Judiciary. Gov. Inos also thanked Kim-Tenorio, his long time legal counsel, for her hard work during her tenure in the executive branch," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Kim-Tenorio practiced as an attorney in the CNMI private sector, then in the Legislature, and finally in the Executive Branch. She said her back-

ground and experience will bring to the Judiciary "many different perspectives and experiences to make a well-rounded, fair, and impartial judge."

"In other words, I have seen and scrutinized the coin from different angles. I learned fairness and impartiality in many different arenas and in many different ways. I will protect our Constitution and ensure justice is served," she earlier told the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations.

Kim-Tenorio, a juris doctorate graduate of New England School of Law in Boston, received her certification under the CNMI Bar in May 2004 and the Michigan Bar in 2002.

SENATE

From Page 1

"It would be good if the CW program is extended or the CNMI will have a big problem if all CW workers are forced to go home," Cezar Zaraspe told *Saipan Tribune* on Saturday.

Zaraspe has been a construction worker in the CNMI since 1989. If the CW program is not extended, he—like other foreign workers—won't have a choice but to go back to the Philippines where he hails from.

Zhang Jun, a Chinese mother of two U.S. citizen children, said she's been working in the CNMI for nine years and she won't want to leave the CNMI after 2014.

"I want to stay on Saipan and work," the worker from Chongqing said Saturday.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), in a statement on Friday, said the number of foreign workers in the CNMI would still have to be reduced every year, however, and zeroed out by Dec. 31, 2019.

He said the 184 foreign investors, who had established businesses in the CNMI prior to 2009 and who now hold Commonwealth-only visas, would be allowed to stay in business,

"also until the end of 2019."

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday the Inos administration supports a CW and E2C program extension until 2019.

Sablan thanked Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) and his Republican counterpart, Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), for Thursday's action in Washington, D.C.

Wyden and Murkowski introduced S. 1237 at Sablan's request on June 27.

Sablan authored and introduced a companion bill in the House, H.R. 2200, a month earlier. Delegates Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam), Donna M. Christensen (D-Virgin Islands), and Eni F.V. Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa) are co-sponsors.

"I very much appreciate this bipartisan recognition that it is impossible to fill the 10,000 jobs now held by foreign workers with U.S. workers by the end of next year," Sablan said.

He said he understands there are only 1,742 U.S. workers now registered with the local employment services office.

"Even if every one of them took a job, we would still be 8,000 short. Businesses would close. Investors would take their money elsewhere. Tax revenues

would drop. And the cost of electricity and other basic necessities would rise, because we would have fewer consumers in our economy," he said.

Besides adding five years to the ongoing period of transition from local to federal management of immigration in the CNMI, the omnibus territories bill contains 11 other sections.

They aim to cut electricity rates in the U.S. insular areas, reduce the local match island governments pay for some federal grants, and help island finance departments improve annual revenue estimates.

The omnibus bill is an effort to get territorial issues considered outside of partisan political concerns and enacted without being dependent on larger legislation.

"Having a bill dealing solely and specifically with insular area issues is a pattern I want to establish and maintain in every Congress. Of course, I will keep working on Northern Marianas issues with standalone legislation and by inserting language that benefits us in the big policy bills, too. You have to create multiple opportunities, if you want to get things done here," Sablan said.

A CNMI territorial sea or submerged lands provision was

originally part of S.1237, but Sablan was able to have it enacted as a separate, standalone measure in September, one of only 57 bills that have become law in all of 2013.

Sablan said four Republican senators—Lamar Alexander (Tennessee), John Barossa (Wyoming), Mike Lee (Utah), and Tim Scott (South Dakota)—voted Thursday against sending S.1237 to the Senate floor for final approval.

None of them stated the nature of their objection to the bill, he said.

"We will be working over the holiday break to address whatever concerns remain. I would certainly like to see the Senate pass S.1237 early in the new year and send it over to the House, so we can start moving the bill through our committee process," he said.

Without an extension of the CW program, the CNMI loses immediate access to some 10,000 foreign skilled and professional workers, mostly from the Philippines, that the CNMI economy has relied upon for years and decades—from nurses to engineers, architects, accountants, carpenters, hotel employees, farmers and house workers, among others.

US rule could limit Micronesian efforts to protect sharks

Nine Micronesian leaders—from three countries and two U.S. territories—say they oppose U.S. plans for implementing a law they believe would undermine local bans on the trade of shark fins.

The Shark Conservation Act of 2010 was intended to close loopholes in the U.S. law to prohibit shark finning by requiring that sharks caught by American vessels or entering U.S. ports be landed with their fins naturally attached to their bodies. Hoping to further protect these critically important ocean predators, 11 U.S. states and territories—including Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands in Micronesia—have passed additional laws.

However, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has said that these state and territorial laws could interfere with federal fisheries statutes under the Magnuson-

Stevens Act and therefore would be preempted.

In a communique issued after this month's 19th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit, leaders of the western Pacific U.S. territories and several island nations said regulations for implementing the law would overturn bans on shark fin trading in Guam and the Northern Marianas.

"The shark fin trade bans were implemented with bipartisan support after considerable public feedback. The laws reflect the unique concerns and needs [of] our islands and our citizens," the communique says. The leaders say the local laws complement, rather than ham-

per, the broader U.S. fisheries law and its goals.

"The shark fin trade bans do not interfere with Magnuson-Stevens Act's purposes and objectives of maximum sustainable yield. They do not interfere with fishing in federal waters; instead they regulate commerce by banning the trade of fins. Since MSA regulates fishing activity and not commerce, the state shark fin bans are complementary to the Shark Conservation Act," the communique says. The leaders asked the Obama administration to remove the preemptive language from the final rule.

By referring to "states," the

leaders were indicating that the U.S. decision also would interfere with the needs and concerns of American Samoa, Hawaii, California, Washington, Oregon, Illinois, Delaware, Maryland, and New York.

"The Shark Conservation Act was intended to decrease the killing of sharks, but the proposed rules could lead to a significant setback for shark

conservation," said Angelo O'Connor Villagomez, a shark conservation expert for The Pew Charitable Trusts. "It is critical that the law allow states and territories to continue implementing their own protections."

Despite the potential negative implications of the implement-

ing rule, the chief executives noted that shark protections throughout the region continue to improve. The participating countries and territories are expected to implement a Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary in early 2014. (*The Pew Charitable Trusts*)

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Mission accomplished! Forager Fury II concludes

By LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

ANDERSEN AIR BASE, Guam—Service members on Tinian and in Guam successfully completed Exercise Forager Fury II on Dec. 20 and has begun the return trip to their home units.

Forager Fury II is designed to employ and assess combat power generation and operations in an austere environment and with the exercise completed, Marine Aircraft Group 12 leaders reflect on the execution and outcome of this exercise.

"As with any exercise of this scope, plans for everything from air and ground transportation, to billeting, to aviation support, to

coordination with various local and federal agencies must be accomplished well in advance of the exercise in order to ensure its smooth execution," said Maj. Donald Hall, FFII exercise officer with MAG-12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "For us, that meant that planning for this year's Forager Fury began almost immediately after completing this exercise last year. MAG-12 conducted three in-depth planning conferences with the participating units, as well as weekly internal Operational Planning Teams in order to ensure the safe and successful execution of FF II. Detailed planning began this summer and will continue all the way

through the safe redeployment of all forces to their home bases. This coming January we will conduct our after action reviews and begin planning for next year's exercise."

During the exercise, the aviation units flew more than 500 sorties while logging in about 700 flight hours while supporting more than 100 close air support missions, concluding with more than engaged 160 targets.

"Forager Fury II is an excellent opportunity for MAG-12 to showcase its combat capabilities while integrating elements that are internal to MAG-12, as well as other components of the Marine Air Ground Task Force, from the ground combat element to the

logistical support and other aviation elements throughout the Marine Aircraft Wing overseas," said Maj. Thomas Mondoux, executive officer of MWSS-171. "One of the best parts about the exercise for us, as MWSS-171, is to show how closely integrated we are to MAG-12 and its aviation combat capabilities."

MAG-12 and MWSS-171 capabilities have expanded exponentially during this iteration of Forager Fury.

"During Exercise Geiger Fury in 2012, MAG-12 and MWSS-171 came in and cleared all of Baker runway in order to land a KC-130J Hercules, the first aircraft to land on the runway since

1947," said Lt. Col. Howard Eyth, the commanding officer of MWSS-171. "During Forager Fury II, we established a forward arming and refueling point in two locations on the island of Tinian, one at west field and one at north field, where aircraft could come in and rapidly refuel, turn around and launch right back into the fight. Over the course of four weeks our combat engineer platoon and heavy equipment sections managed to clear 161 acres of vegetation exposing all four runways (Able, Baker, Charlie and Dog) and the access roads that connect them. Additionally, we were able to set up a helicopter landing zone on Charlie runway to receive MV-22 Osprey and Navy MH-60 Seahawk helicopters as well."

During FFII the units involved achieved many goals including providing more than 11,000 meals to the service members on Tinian and managing 900,000 gallons of fuel throughout Guam and Tinian and performing nine arrested landings in 30 minutes.

"We get a lot of training opportunities here in the Marianas that we can't as easily obtain in mainland Japan," said Mondoux. "It's an excellent opportunity for us, as MWSS-171, to showcase the full capabilities of our equipment and capabilities that are resident in a support squadron. Finally, it gives us an opportunity to operate in an austere environment to fully test the limitations of our Marines and equipment when we operate under a continuous surge. This helps us identify where our frictions points are and forces us to maximize performance of our personnel and equipment."

While the purpose of FFII is training and readiness, it is also committed to building local relationships and respecting the local community. In this mission, MAG-12 participated in 14 community relations projects on Tinian and in Guam, providing about 74 total hours of much needed manpower at each of the locations, at a monetary value of more than \$30,000.

"We've had the unique opportunity to work with the local officials," said Mondoux. "They have been very support to our mission and are very encouraged of seeing more Marines in the future and expanding our training opportunities. The Marines have had an excellent opportunity to interact with the public by getting out and doing community relation events, working with kids and touring monument sites with the locals. We have even been able to invite the locals to check out some of the things that were doing here and demonstrate some of the capabilities of the Marine Corps."

As the exercise ends, the leadership understands that exercises like these are very important as they could all one day be used in real-world situations.

"Professionally and personally, the best part of this exercise was seeing several months of hard work come together into a successful training evolution for all of the participating units," Lt. Col. Keith Topel, Operations Officer, MAG-12. "MAG-12 and the other participating units executed well, learned a great deal, and will be ready to incorporate those lessons learned into future iterations of this exercise or actual combat operations."



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USCIS reminds employers to file properly for CW extensions

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services reminds employers to send accurate and complete I-129 CW extension submissions. Inaccurate or incomplete applications may result in a lapse of employment for workers.

Multiple workers: A single CW-1 extension petition can only be filed for multiple workers if they have the same jobs,

location, validity periods, etc.

Supporting evidence: In addition to Form I-129 CW Petition for a CNMI-Only Nonimmigrant Transitional Worker and the attestation, an employer must provide supporting evidence showing that the information provided about the worker, the employer and the job position is accurate and

» Applications extending a transitional worker in the CNMI must be complete and accurate

meets eligibility criteria, such as showing that the required job announcements were posted or that the beneficiary was in valid status when filing a change of employer

petition. Detailed information about the items required for an extension of stay petition can be found on page 4 of the I-129CW instructions. The link to these instructions is found at www.uscis.gov/i-129cw.

If a submission is incomplete, USCIS may send out a Request for Evidence (RFE), which would delay the extension of the

transitional worker and perhaps result in employment delays while awaiting the required information.

Timely filing: Employers may file an extension request for an employee in CW status up to six months in advance of the expiration date of the employee's current status, and are encouraged to file as soon as

possible within that time frame to prevent gaps in employment authorization. USCIS will reject extensions filed more than six months in advance of the employee's expiration date.

More information: USCIS urges employers to use the resources available on the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov/cw. (USCIS)

Inos signs \$656K contract for Tinian homestead road and ponding basin

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed an over \$656,000 contract for Pacific Cooperation Ltd. to start construction of a road and ponding basin for the West San Jose Homestead Subdivision on Tinian.

"The contract is for \$656,150.50. The project completion date should be three months after the notice to proceed, which is the only thing the contract is waiting for," the office of Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday.

Inos and Hofschneider,

through the Department of Public Lands, solicited for sealed bids on the "right-of-way and excavation of the ponding basin [for] San Jose Homestead Subdivision project" in May.

The scope of work includes the grubbing, grading, and construc-

tion of approximately 11,918 linear feet of road for the West San Jose Homestead on Tinian.

Bids were submitted and reviewed. The winning bidder was named in July.

"This project has been a long time coming. The people of Tin-

ian have been waiting for access to the West San Jose Homestead Subdivision, and so it is satisfying to finally see this project move forward. Because of the efforts of this administration, and the support of the CNMI leadership, the Department of

Public Lands and the Department of Public Works, future residents of this subdivision will soon have access to their respective homesteads," Hofschneider said in a statement.

Hofschneider's office said the contract is now headed to the Division of Procurement and Supply to prepare a notice to proceed.

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- (1) \$500.00 Cash – Final Draw

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Scheduled power outage today in Dandan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power interruption today, Dec. 23, 2013, from 9:30am to 1:30pm affecting areas near Dandan, Saipan.

The purpose of the interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the CUC

line crew to safely replace a deteriorated primary power pole in Dandan next to Sand St. Water services may be affected in the area during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Areas to be affected include

Tokpong Pl., Hudda Dr., Parasail Pl., Gabbe Pl., Batu Pl., Kamma Pl., Hook Ln., Fishing Pl., Adios Pl., Walking Pl., Trolling Pl., Sailing Dr., Exchange Ln., Pution Ln., Mapagahes Ln., Pulan Ln., Dandan, Naftan Road, Hawaiian Rock Quarry, Obyan Beach

Dr., Dela Concepcion Dr., GPPC Field Office, AARF, and CUC Obyan Water Wells.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, travelers are urged to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. (CUC)



Covolo

Rome Bishop Enrico dal Covolo in Guam

YONA, Guam—Most Rev. Bishop Enrico dal Covolo, SDB, rector of the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, is in Guam, making his first official visit to the Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores Catholic Theological Institute for Oceania located at the Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary of Guam in Yona

from December 21 to 29, 2013.

Most Rev. Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron, OFM Cap. D.D., erected Guam's first local seminary in 1999 and a year later in 2000, the Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores Catholic Theological Institute for Oceania received its affiliation to the Pontifical Lateran University, commonly known as "The Pope's

University" in Rome.

Bishop dal Covolo concelebrated Sunday Mass at the *Dulce Nombre de Maria* Cathedral Basilica in Hagatna with Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2013, at 9:30am. A welcoming brunch soon followed at the Governor's House in Agana Heights beginning at 10:30am. (PR)



December 23, 2005

CUC gets additional \$500K from govt

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday received another \$500,000 from the CNMI government, making the total government subsidy for the utility firm's fuel costs \$1 million this week. However, the total amount of \$2 million pledged by the Babauta administration on Wednesday to the CUC—besides the \$500,000 the government gave to the beleaguered utility last Tuesday—appeared uncertain. CUC's acting executive director, Sohale Samari, said yesterday that the government pledged to give the CUC another \$500,000 possibly on Tuesday next week, besides the same amount given yesterday—a total of \$1 million. The government has made no clear-cut guarantee regarding the additional \$1 million it pledged to give the CUC the following week.

Transition committee: Wrongdoing would be punished

Prosecution of current government officials or employees may result from the reports that transition committee members will be turning in next Friday, according to a ranking official of the incoming administration. Overall transition committee chairman Martin Manglona said his members found acts of wrongdoing in the process of their assessing the Executive Branch and other agencies. Some of the cases are now under investigation. "There will be some prosecution when the new administration comes in," Manglona said. He refused to provide further details pending the submission of final reports next Friday, Dec. 30.

December 23, 2006

Yumul: It's not my bill

Saipan congressman Ray Yumul wants to set the record straight: He is not one of the authors of the bill that aims to require non-resident workers to exit before being re-employed in the CNMI. "I am not a party or co-author of this piece of legislation [House Bill 15-167]. If [Hector] Sevilla insists that I am, I would gladly provide him a copy of [the bill]," said Yumul in an open letter issued yesterday. The congressman accused Sevilla, a member of the Dekada organization, which actively supports the extension of federal minimum wage and immigration to the CNMI, of "providing false and misleading statements to the public."

DEQ awards prizes to recycling winners

Recycling heroes gathered once more at the Division of Environmental Quality Conference Room yesterday to receive their prizes for winning the recycling competition held in November. The Northern Marianas Academy, a private school in the Commonwealth, topped this year's CNMI Recycles Day competition. The school collected a total of 50,380 lbs of recyclable materials. There were 34 NMA students who participated in the contest, bringing in 1,481.8 lbs of trash per student.

December 23, 2007

Quarters soon to feature NMI

There will soon be an easier way to answer the almost inevitable question of where the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas is: by flipping a quarter. The CNMI, together with four other U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, will soon be featured on the tail side of quarters, with the passage of legislation providing for the minting of new commemorative quarters. The measure, tucked into a massive federal spending bill passed by Congress on Dec. 19, will extend the popular state quarter program to the nation's capital as well as the territories of Guam, the CNMI, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Justices reverse denial of two adoption cases

The CNMI Supreme Court has reversed Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo's denial of two adoption petitions after the high court determined that the judge based his ruling on assumptions. The justices also noted Govendo's language during the adoption hearings that, according to them, "does not meet the reasonable observer's appearance of justice." In reversing the Superior Court's decision to deny adoption petitions involving three children, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Alexandro C. Castro ruled that the trial court clearly made a mistake in denying the adoptions because it improperly relied on evidence not entered into the record.

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‘Christmas Drop’ delivers relief to typhoon-hit island in Palau

By **TECH. SGT. ZACHARY WILSON**
36TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—Airmen participating in Operation Christmas Drop here, coordinated with non-governmental organizations and State Department officials in the region to airdrop critical shipments of water and food for 30 workers recovering from damage caused by Typhoon Haiyan on Kayangel Island, part of the Republic of Palau in the western Pacific Ocean, on Dec. 11.

Within 48-hours of the initial request for help, airmen from Yokota Air Base’s 36th Airlift Squadron and Andersen Air Force Base’s 36th Wing, planned and executed a C-130 Hercules mission that flew nearly 800 miles from Andersen to airdrop the supplies to on the sparsely inhabited island.

“Working closely with the U.S. Department of State and the University of Guam, we were able to leverage the Air Force’s tactical airlift capability to provide timely aid to those in need,” said Lt. Col. Andrew Campbell, 36th Airlift Squadron Operation Christmas Drop detachment commander.

Kayangel, the northernmost island-state of Palau, was so devastated by Typhoon Haiyan in mid-November that 69 of the 300 Kayangel residents who did not initially leave before the

storm were forced to evacuate after the storm passed.

The category 5-equivalent super typhoon—with up to 145 mph sustained winds—swept away homes, foliage, infrastructure and—perhaps most critically—the island’s water collection and storage facilities. Luckily, there were no typhoon-related fatalities on the island.

“All structures were damaged or lost, including the school, but all 69 people were evacuated to Koror and now only a relief [and] rebuild team is on Kayangel; they were hungry and very thirsty as no local water or coconuts are available,” said Bruce Best, the station manager at the University of Guam’s Telecommunication and Distance Education Operation at the Center for Continuing Education Outreach Programs.

Best’s program, which connects telecommunication services to remote areas of the Pacific, has been coordinating with officials in the region in response to damage caused by November’s typhoon.

Coordinating the request for help proved challenging for the government of Palau and representatives from the U.S. State Department working at the U.S. Embassy on the nearby island-state of Koror.

“Really, the only means of communication to Kayangel is by VHF radio to the state representative in Kayangel,” said Joyce Isechal, from the U.S.



SENIOR AIRMAN MARIANIQUE SANTOS
Packages make their way to the shore of Kayangel Island during an Operation Christmas Drop mission over the Pacific Ocean on Dec. 11, 2013. The Island of Kayangel also experienced the devastating effects of Typhoon Haiyan that ravaged the Philippines and other island in the area.

Embassy Palau. “When I relayed to Palau Minister of State Billy Kuartei last Wednesday at noon that the U.S. Air Force ‘Santa’ had just dropped water and food for the residents of Kayangel, he was elated and said, ‘That’s what they need.’”

Airmen executing the mission used a novel approach to ensure over 4,800 lbs of water and food were securely dropped without loss using the Low Cost, Low Altitude re-supply system. A team of riggers from Yokota Air Base’s Combat Mobility Flight met the challenge of devising a way to deliver six low-cost, low-altitude bundles of water that weighed up to 550 pounds

each, a first for the program.

They surrounded the bottles of water with custom-cut pieces of cardboard honeycomb to prevent shifting and to help stabilize the load.

“It’s not an easy task at all,” said Staff Sgt. Landon Soles, an air transportation specialist from the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Yokota. “Water is one of the most difficult payloads to airdrop as it gains its own momentum.”

Soles, a graduate of the U.S. Army Rigger’s School at Fort Lee, Va., said his team used as much energy dispersing material as possible to dampen the shock that occurs when a para-

chute payload hits its target.

“The Army has been trying to perfect the delivery of water via airdrop for years,” Soles said. “Even with robust and reinforced water containers, it’s difficult to keep the entire water package intact without any sort of material loss.”

Soles said when the 10-person rigging team received word of the Kayangel mission, they jumped into action, devising a strategy they felt worked best for the LCLA airdrop delivery method. They rigged the bundles late into the evening so they could make next morning’s C-130 load plan bound for the island.

Officials on Kayangel plan to complete work on the island’s water facilities in the near term as the goal is for residents to return to the island and re-build their homes and community, Best said.

“I hope [Andersen and Yokota] understand the attitude of gratitude not just from the people of Kayangel, but the leaders of Palau who recognize the efforts of others who understand the challenge of recovery,” Isechal said.

Campbell said that the Kayangel relief operation was a prime example of how operations such as Operation Christmas Drop can flexibly match critical needs with available mission resources in an evolving tactical environment.

“Here at Operation Christmas Drop, we’re able to do that quickly, safely and with real mission effects. This mission flew 4,000 lbs of donated food and water—rigged for about \$100—and delivered directly where it was needed, safely and accurately.”

During Operation Christmas Drop, Yokota riggers expect to prepare approximately 80 bundles containing 20 tons of donated relief set for distribution via C-130 airdrop throughout Micronesia. The operation continues through this week. *(2nd Lt. Jake Bailey, 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this article.)*

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David M. Cing	Marianas Trench (New Release) La Rasa Taga Riders	Frank M. Pangelinan "Bokonggo"	Cha Cha Medley Vol. 2 Cha Cha Medley Vol. 6 Meena Cheluhu Vol. 8 Second Release
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 254Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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EDITORIAL

On immigration, look to the states

By JAGDISH BHAGWATI and FRANCISCO RIVERA-BATIZ
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Let's say the improbable happens and Congress passes immigration reform. However it's packaged—one bill or many—you can be sure it will focus on “sticks,” not “carrots.” That's what is required to secure the cooperation of the “anti-amnesty” contingent in the House and the Senate: They demand a highly militarized border and “enhanced” internal enforcement as the price for a years-long, expensive, hurdle-filled “pathway” to citizenship.

There is an alternative to such an expensive, punitive approach. It builds on the compelling fact that the millions who are here illegally cannot be wished away, no matter what. It is bottom-up rather than top-down, and has the advantage of treating immigrants humanely, as befits American values. It also puts into play market forces, as communities and states realize the benefits immigrants provide.

To understand what's wrong with the shape of Congress' top-down reform, consider the “Gang of Eight” immigration bill the Senate passed in June. It would assign \$40 billion in resources to border enforcement over the next 10 years, including funds to extend the border fence and to expand internal policing. But we know that pouring billions more into enforcement won't end illegal immigration, nor will it remedy the situation of unauthorized immigrants who are already here.

Focusing on enforcement was tried during the Clinton administration: Border funding increased from \$1.7 billion in 1993 to close to \$5 billion in 2002. The Border Patrol grew from 8,552 agents to nearly 18,043. And still the numbers of immigrants illegally crossing the Rio Grande increased: from 324,000 in the first half of the 1990s to 654,800 in the second half of the decade, according to Pew Research Center estimates.

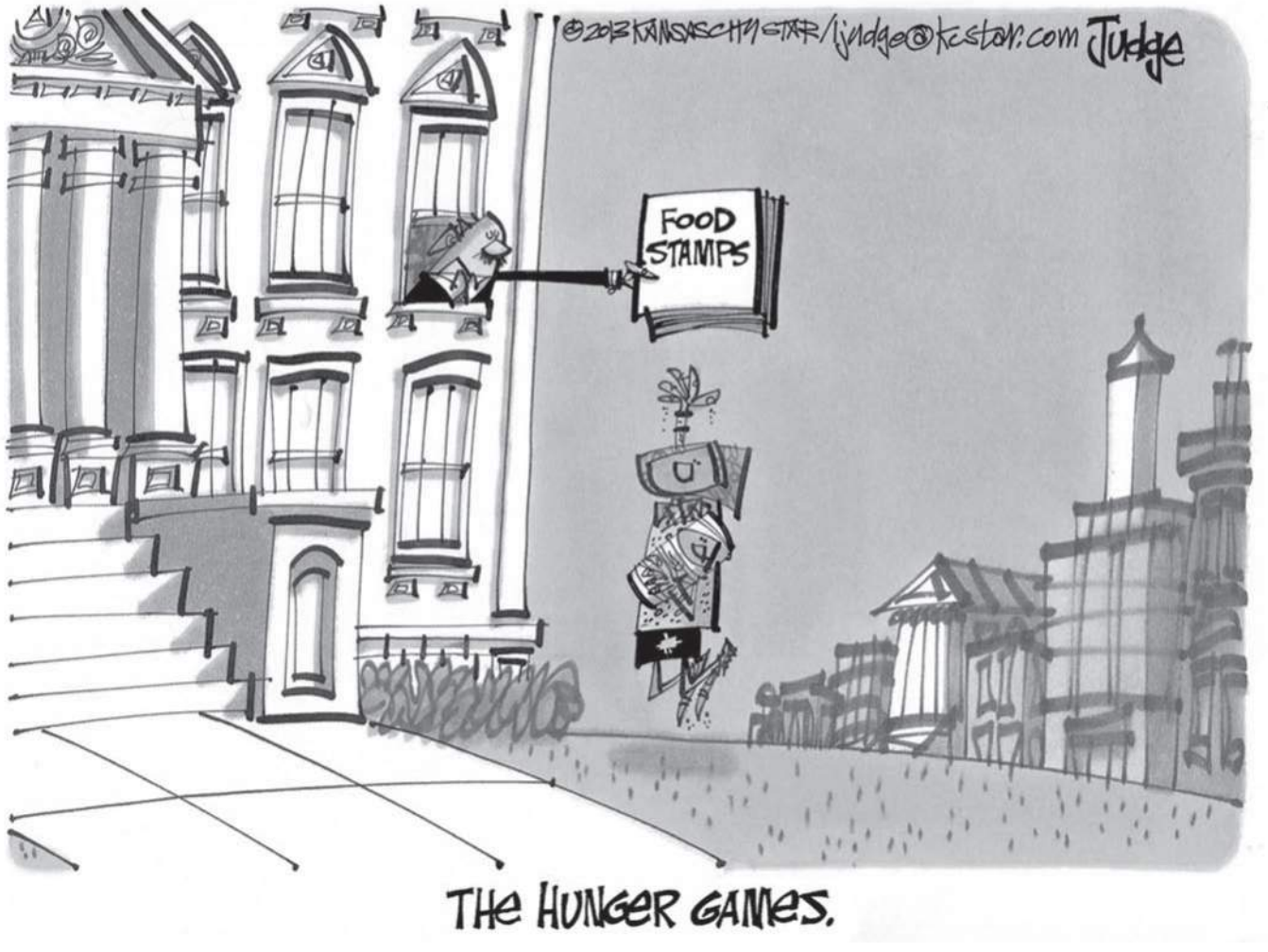
Under President Obama, the enforcement effort has also emphasized deportations. There were fewer than 120,000 annually during the George W. Bush administration; in the last several years, there have been close to 400,000 a year. And yet, according to Jeffrey S. Passel, senior demographer for Pew's Hispanic Trends Project, the population of immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, which dipped in 2008 and 2009 (the worst years of the recession), is rising again: “Current enforcement practices have not led to any measurable reduction beyond the 2009 period,” he told the New York Times.

At the same time, those practices have caused havoc in the lives of immigrants. Deportations have separated families and, as a 2011 Human Rights Watch report documented, in some cases lead to Kafkaesque incarceration. At the border, as security has tightened, migrants have tried ever-more dangerous crossings. In the last 10 years, more than 2,000 people have died of heat exposure on dangerous desert routes. In May, the Washington Office on Latin America, a human rights organization, noted that about five migrants died every four days in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

States, too, pursue inhumane (and counterproductive) immigration policies. In 2010 and 2011, according to one reckoning, only six states failed to pass some sort of anti-immigrant law, including five that adopted “copycat” legislation based on Arizona's infamous SB 1070 law. Such policies were supposed to

See IMMIGRATION on Page 13

Q. WHAT DO YOU CALL POLITICIANS SHOWING VOTERS HOW TOUGH THEY ARE BY DENYING POOR PEOPLE FOOD?



THE HUNGER GAMES.

Think your state has Obamacare problems? They're nothing compared to the CNMI, Guam

By SARAH KLIFF
THE WASHINGTON POST

The Northern Mariana Islands is an American territory in the Pacific Ocean with 15 islands and 77,000 residents. Their population is roughly equal to that of Santa Fe, N.M. And, right now, the territory is at the center of the oddest health reform disaster you've never heard of.

Because of a quirk in the Affordable Care Act's drafting, the Northern Mariana Islands and the four other American territories are subject to some parts of the law but not others. This has messed up the individual market in the Northern Mariana Islands so badly that the one plan selling policies there told the territory's top insurance commissioner it would not sell new plans for 2014.

In other words: Beginning Jan. 1, regulators expect it will be literally impossible for an individual to buy a new policy in the Northern Mariana Islands, and difficult in other territories.

“In the 50 states and D.C., everybody is crying about the Affordable Care Act not working,” says Sixto Igisomar, the regulator. “You multiple those things exponentially for us.”

The problem, in its simplest form, is this: While the Affordable Care Act requires health insurers in the territories to accept all shoppers no matter how sick, it does not mandate that all territorial residents buy plans nor does it provide subsidies to make coverage more affordable—as it does in the 50 states and the

District of Columbia.

This is, to put it mildly, a really bad way to run an insurance market. The whole idea of the subsidies and the mandate was to encourage enrollment among the healthier, younger people necessary to support an insurance market that also works for the sick. Without them, experts expect only sick people will enroll—and premiums will skyrocket. It's like building a house with a roof but no walls.

“HHS and the government itself describe health care reform as a three-legged stool where you have the mandate, the subsidies and the market reforms,” says John McDonald, director of the Virgin Islands' division of banking and insurance. “Well, what they've basically done is left us with a one-legged stool.”

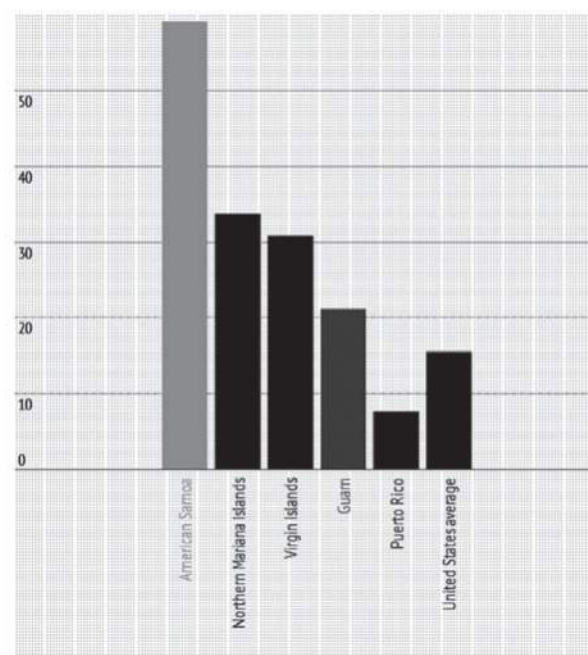
The problems stem from how Congress drafted the Affordable Care Act, including the territories in some provisions but not others. New insurance regulations—like the requirement to sell to all shoppers, cover a larger suite of benefits, and limits on premiums—were included as amendments to the Public Health Service Act. American territories do fall under that law, and must comply with its

requirements.

The individual mandate and insurance subsidies, however, are not amendments to the PHS Act. They're just part of the new health care law, which defines states differently, as “each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.” As such, territories are

See OBAMACARE on Page 13

Uninsured rate of American territories



Create infographics inlogr.am

Sheng Dan Jie/Felis Pasgua

In Hong Kong, 圣诞快乐 (shèng dàn kuài lè) is the popular greeting for the season, spoken as salutation, or plastered on walls. *Sheng dan jie* literally means “happy birth of a saint holiday”; *ye dan jie* gets “Jesus” phonetically in as “ye”, (ye-su, like *Iesu* in Greek). Since we focus on the day rather than the idolatry of Jesus, we will stick with our title, something akin to the *Felis Nabadat/Felis Pasgua/Feliz Navidad/Feliz Pasqua* in Chamorro/Spanish.

A verbal rehearsal that gets particularly loud in my corner between Thanksgiving and the calendared story of the journey of the infant child of Bethlehem to Golgotha and on to the empty tomb is the litany that follows, sentiment and structure, images and metaphor adopted and inspired from the literary aptitude of spirit warrior John P. Cock in his book, *Motivation for the Great Work*, an embodiment of his commitment to planet Earth:

Authentic living does not mean delivery of what our earnest desires strive for:

long life
good health
financial stability
a marriage that works
loving children
a nice house
a solid job
sweet dreams
no pain
a good education
kind in-laws
responsible government
safe cities
comfortable taxes

good neighbors
cessation of wars
and the end of poverty.

But Life does offer:

unconditional love
in being regardless
healing of deep wounds
arms to embrace the fallen
faithfulness amid faithlessness
grace nevertheless
peace that passes understanding
a calling desired or not
courage amidst fear
purpose when lost
mercy without being asked
future beyond impossible
balm for grief unending
undeserved forgiveness
more freedom than one can handle
welcome home mat with open arms
resurrection in this life
comfort in pain
refuge when storms rage
rest when weary
hope against hope
light in the dark of night
joy unspeakable....

The various phrases capture images of a journey of that little babe in the manger in a season we call Christmas, narrated by gospel writers Matthew and Luke, and appropriated as a liberating and freeing story by many. I list myself among these folks, albeit more like the stable boy ready to rake the animal droppings rather than

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

in the company of silk draped royals bringing myrrh, frankincense, and gold.

Life’s reality, for those who have eyes to see, is expressed in the movie of the Von Trapp family in the *Sound of Music*: when a familiar door closes, somehow new windows open elsewhere. In the awareness of John Epps, *Theology of Surprise*, Exploring Life’s Mysteries, life is just too full of surprises. For those who dare to be free, and freely care to be, life at every moment is a rebirth of wonders.

For those who take their faith seriously, particularly those in the tradition of Jesus the Christ, check out *The Love of History and the Future of Christianity: Toward a Manifesto for a Next Christianity* by Gene W. Marshall in www.realisticcliv-ing.org.

In our hear-repeat opening ritual in school, I use the Chicago Westside 5th City preschool ritual, a shorter version of the litany above. This season, I intone a version of the ritual thus: “this is the reality I have. I can gratefully, compassionately and graciously live this life, or, waste it away, in resignation, fear, and despair. This is the life I have.” I live! Still, again, and, ever more.

Whatever your situation is, you can, too. *Shèng dàn kuài lè!*

2013: Year In Review

The bad news of the year is the total destruction of the Visayas in the Philippines. The generosity of the global community in its timely assistance deserves everyone’s accolades.

We understand the hardship our brothers and sisters had to endure having been pummeled with super storms in 1968 and 1977, the infamous Jean and Kim.

Locally, the 25-percent pension pay reduction floored some 3,000 retirees and their families. This amidst slated increases in health pension, deductibles, medication, cost of food, power bills, gasoline and other skyrocketing increases by early next year. Combined, it knocks more than 100 percent in the purchasing power of individual families. *Dios mihu!*

Arrogance of ’13 solely belongs to pro-casino legislators who had the gall ignoring the will of the people who shot the issue down twice in recent past.

The guys and gals need to revisit their civic class notes to review and come to grips with the purpose of a plebiscite. I’m sure that the conduct wasn’t rooted in the public trust we have in legislators. Is arrogance and purposeful ignorance the suspect reciprocal answer?

Throw in our esteemed Washington Delegate Kilili who simply ignores demands by his people to engage in meaningful discussion on his pathway to citizenship proposal for 12K foreigners here. The fear of crashing the apple cart of indigenous hegemony is a perfectly legitimate concern.

But he prefers ignoring the call for healthy discussion. Indigenous voters aren’t enamored with Kilili’s arrogance on this score.

The most vocal indigenous group views Kilili’s support of the measure as an ill-conceived immigration scheme (backdoor policy) to upset the apple cart of indigenous political hegemony. It’s a tough issue to mute and not when locals are on the front line. Should be an interesting 2014.

The trip by four legislators to Guangzhou for an “educational” trip on liquefied gas (all expenses paid by a firm) is but hypocrisy. Each spouted his integrity isn’t compromised for going on a “freebie.” Would “emasculated” of integrity fit the bill? You see your inability to discern the truth from the apparent isn’t a license to lie.

That the trip is a “freebie” instantly compromises your integrity from A-Z. Mirrored against principle-based reasoning, the argument buckles against the powerful headwinds of logic for lack of truth and validity. Your spout may have progressive tenses but suffers deficiency in syntactical consistency or it must be an exaggerated poetic diction paralyzed by contradiction. Lamely asymmetrical!

Catholic Pontiff Pope Francis is *Time Magazine*’s “Person of the Year.” He’s a revered religious leader by billions hailing from all corners of the global village. He eclipsed the late African leader

Mandela and “selfie” President Obama.

This year too marks the death of the retirement program for active employees. Well, after years crafting to ensure its demise, politicians finally had their Christmas wish: Killed the program altogether with gradual insolvency. I suppose Santa isn’t coming to town to visit active employees upon exiting service, *di ba?*

This year’s fraud is the Obamacare rollout or *mirabile dictum* that consumers discovered they couldn’t keep, period! It remains a disaster and the single most problematic issue for Democrats heading into 2014 election. It’s a political iceberg downstairs, powerful headwind upstairs for Democrats. Is the administration implementing this mess here?

The Navy wishes to expand its training area. We disagreed, alluding to the provision of Covenant Section 802 that asserts the U.S. has “no present need....” That was 35 years ago. But take a look at Covenant Section 806, subsections “b” and “c”.

Uncle Sam only need write the CNMI for additional real estate provided it has secured U.S. congressional approval and funds. Subsection “c” also grants Uncle Sam the right to eminent domain.

The year ends with “Dalai este.” The NMI is roasted in over half-a-billion dollar debt while piling it up with persistent deficit spending. Next stop is the grocery store to buy the new Bankruptcy Oil to fry our fingers into breadfruit chips, *di ba?*

Laughter in paradise

After the dust of WWII settled down across these isles, it was reconstruction time as the U.S. military moved in to assist rebuild the Northern Marianas community.

The indigenous people are better equipped with Japanese over a strange language known as English. It was another chapter learning how to speak it. Learning English has its own humor too. Here goes:

At a flag ceremony, a Navy admiral participated and heard us sing the *Stars Spangled Banner*. Every word was clear up to “at the twilight last evening.” We mumbled every word after that while struggling to stay in tune. After the ceremony, the admiral said, “That was a nice rendition of our national anthem in the vernacular.” Sorry, admiral, we had to impress you!

A kid found his mom’s driver’s license. He studied it, looked up and said, “Now, I understand why dad left you. You had ‘F’ on sex,” you know, the gender identity: male or female. Eh, kids are smart too, yeah?

At a state funeral, a legislator was reading a resolution of condolence. He was instructed to keep his eyes on the text. But he decided to look out at the crowd as though he’s a seasoned speaker. As he returned to his copy, he said, “...and it is the sense of the...

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

to extend our deepest condom...to the family of the late...” This happens when one pretends to be what he’s not. Not so smart, yeah?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Enough is enough!

I want to address this letter to Sen. Ralph Torres and Sen. Ray Yumul who cowardly killed the Saipan casino bill a few weeks back on Rota. I say cowardly because they cannot face the people of Saipan—who put them into office—that they do not support the Saipan casino bill. They had to hide in the *sabanas* of Rota to do so. The Saipan casino bill provides a funding source to settle all unpaid land compensation to hundreds of landowners whose properties were stolen by the CNMI government and are benefiting the citizens of the CNMI, to include our visitors and tourists. The lands were stolen because the government took these lands without “just compensation.” It seems that once the leaders are voted into office, their memories immediately evaporate into thin air (amnesia). When they campaign, the issue is always raised to resolve them once and for all.

To all landowners whose lands were stolen, do not have short memories and vote all those leaders out of office if they cannot offer solutions to your problems. Their plan to resolve the issue must be very clear and achievable. Unless you consistently raise this issue, they will never go away. Don’t forget, politicians’ memories are very short-lived!

As to Sens. Ralph Torres and Ray Yumul, please disclose your economic plan of action and your solid proposed revenue source to address this issue once and for all!

I am a resident of Saipan and have great pity for the landowners who have waited years or decades to be justly compensated. A lot of the landowners have passed away or are very sick but never had the chance to reap their hard work toiling the lands to homestead.

I pray to all that we will have leaders that can take good care of their citizenry and not make them suffer! Enough is enough!

Vicente M. Sablan
Kagman III, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph. Lows around 77.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph. Lows around 77.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼79

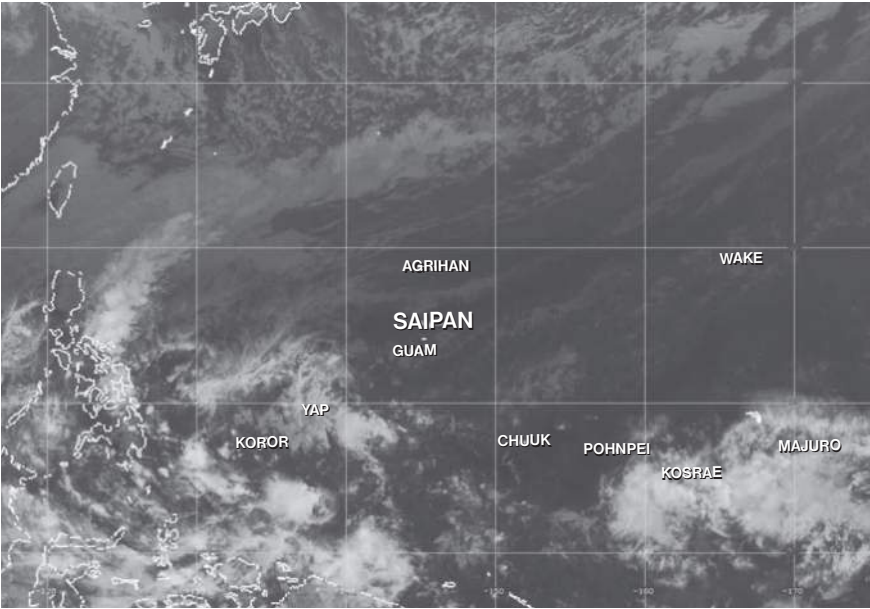
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲43 ▼17
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲66 ▼54
Honolulu	Showers	▲80 ▼68
London	Showers	▲53 ▼48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲69 ▼47
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼51
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼73
New York	Showers	▲67 ▼56
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲50 ▼39
Paris	Fog	▲52 ▼48
Pusan	Sunny	▲47 ▼31
Rome	Sunny	▲58 ▼42
Salem	Showers	▲50 ▼44
San Francisco	Sunny	▲65 ▼45
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲33 ▼20
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲48 ▼36
Washington, DC	Showers	▲73 ▼61

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
11:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
6:17 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1 Feet	
10:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima at 25N165E to 21N160E, then continues as a shear line to pass near Pagan at 18N146E and then to beyond 130E at 15N. Patchy clouds and rain are seen along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough meanders east-southeastward from 3N130E to a weak circulation centered south of Yap and Koror near 1N137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present near the trough and circulation south of Koror and Yap, or south of a line from 7N130E to 4N144E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Yap within 90 miles of a line from 10N138E to 7N144E. Trade-wind disturbances are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just southeast of Pohnpei.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Tuesday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Wednesday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Thursday	6:41 AM	5:54 PM
Friday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:39 PM	10:28 AM
Tuesday	11:27 PM	11:07 AM
Wednesday	11:46 AM	5:37 AM
Thursday	12:16 AM	12:26 PM
Friday	1:07 AM	1:09 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 21, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 D2102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 D2104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN D2101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily D2103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:05am 10:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:40am 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

IMMIGRATION

From Page 10

restore law and order and push immigrants to self-deport. It hasn't worked that way.

Many of the provisions in the copycat legislation, for example, have been blocked or overturned by the courts as unconstitutional. And although there are solid data and anecdotal reports that show immigrants leaving states that institute anti-immigrant policies, or at least retreating further into the shadows, there is no evidence that they left the country. Besides, driving immigrants out or further underground hasn't proved to be a good thing.

In Alabama, for instance, where one of the most draconian anti-immigrant laws went into effect in 2011, the results were disastrous: Tomatoes were left unpicked in the fields, schoolchildren went truant, immigrants working in the state legally were harassed and some businesses had to recruit refugees and Puerto Ricans to fill jobs local residents wouldn't take. Commercial groups pressed for repeal

OBAMACARE

From Page 10

also barred from using the federal health exchange but did have the opportunity to build their own marketplaces.

Back in 2010 when the health law passed, the territories were generally enthusiastic about the big changes it would bring to the insurance market. Most of them have uninsured rates much higher than the states (the notable exception being Puerto Rico). The governor of the Virgin Islands sent a letter to the federal government asking it to extend the health law's benefits "to the maximum extent permitted by law."

It's hard to pinpoint when, exactly, they became aware of the potential problems of implementing the insurance reforms without a mandate or subsidies. Either way, they are now very concerned--and there's little hope of a quick solution.

The territorial insurance regulators, on their own and in coordination with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, have asked the Obama administration for a one-year delay in the requirement that insurers accept all shoppers.

"We urge you...to provide the territories with the flexibility that they need to determine whether and how the market reforms should be applied," an October 16 letter from the NAIC to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius says.

and civil rights groups joined legal challenges to the laws. Many of those challenges succeeded this year. One Alabama economist estimated that the law would reduce the state's economy by more than \$2 billion a year.

Even before the cautionary tale of Alabama played itself out, anti-immigrant fever appeared to have been breaking. In 2012, the number of states addressing or passing any sort of immigration legislation fell, according to National Conference of State Legislatures. This year, it rose again, but this time many states were passing bills and resolutions that were pro, not anti, immigrant.

California was among them. Gov. Jerry Brown signed nine immigrant-related bills in October, including one that limits cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities, and another that allows undocumented immigrants to obtain special driver's licenses. "We're the state of opportunity," Brown said when he signed the driver's license bill, "and we are sending a message to Washington."

Americans can be of two minds when it comes to illegal immigration. The right brain sympathizes, but the left brain fixates on

But Health and Human Services has said previously that it doesn't have the regulatory authority to delay a health law provision--only Congress can make that type of an alteration. In a letter this summer, the administration also pointed to the territories' previously eager support for the health-care law which they saw as an about-face. As HHS describes it, territories initially embraced the new regulations only to later reject them.

"HHS, at the request of and with full support from territories, confirmed the Affordable Care Act's market reform provisions that are incorporated into the PHS Act, including the guaranteed availability provision, are applicable to the territories," Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight director Gary Cohen wrote in a July letter to territorial governors.

"However meritorious your request might be," Cohen continues, "HHS is not authorized to choose which provisions...might apply to the territories."

(Territorial officials are quick to point out here that the administration has allowed other delays, to provisions like the employer mandate, when they proved too burdensome to implement. "They keep telling us they can't change the law, but they moved the mandates," says Art Ilagan, Guam's top insurance regulator.)

The administration has offered technical assistance to alleviate the problem alongside potential policy work-arounds. One solution Health and Human Services has suggested is having the territories pass their *own* individual mandates, just as Massachu-

illegality. At the national level, negotiating a compromise between those poles has created "reform" that emphasizes punishment over integration and pours money into enforcement efforts.

But the pendulum is swinging. States and communities that are hostile to immigrants will not thrive; those that welcome them will, and that will shift the political equilibrium toward support for policies that integrate, attract and retain immigrants no matter their legal status.

The United States needs federal immigration reform--the states can only do so much. But it doesn't need national reform at any price. Rather than settle for the punitive, enforcement-first proposals on offer in Washington, let the grassroots grow. They can push Congress in a better direction.

Jagdish Bhagwati is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and a professor of economics and law at Columbia University. Francisco Rivera-Batiz is an emeritus professor of economics and education at Teachers College of Columbia University. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

setts did back in 2006. But the regulators say that won't work either, because they don't have enough money to subsidize the purchase of insurance coverage for their citizens.


Guam, for example, estimates it would need \$75 million annually to pay out insurance subsidies under the health-care law. And while the health-care law does include some federal funds for could be used for that purpose, it's much less--\$25 million meant to last for five years, from 2014 through 2019.

"As written by Congress, the law does not allow for tax credits to be extended to the territories," HHS spokeswoman Joanne Peters said in an email. "We continue to work closely with the territories to provide technical assistance and guidance as they implement the law."

Meanwhile, the territory is already running up against its territorial debt ceiling, and doesn't have that additional \$50 million.


Igisomar thinks the very best solution is actually expanding the health-care law, not delaying it. He wants Congress to reopen the Affordable Care Act and include the territories in the individual mandate and subsidy provisions. He also realizes that, for a small territory, a path through congressional gridlock is pretty much non-existent.

"We have a Washington delegate, but I don't know that our one Washington delegate can make a difference," he says. "The idea is to raise awareness so that every other American citizen from a territory can fully understand the impact."



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-14-006

CHALAN KIYA-KANAT TABLA WATERLINE CONNECTION

(W12-022)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Chalan Kiya-Kanat Tabla Waterline Connection in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope-of-work consists of installation of new six (6) inch ductile iron distribution main connecting the Kanat Tabla booster pump through the existing Chalan Kiya water distribution main line. It also includes replacement and installation of various new valves, and water service lateral connections at designated areas within the Chalan Kiya Village.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Tender Documents may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable); at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 24, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-006, Chalan Kiya-Kanat Tabla Waterline Connection, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 14, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 27, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christi Lazaro, Engineer, CUC Water-Wastewater Division via email christi.lazaro@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Support Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER

Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-14-003

Completion of Installation of a New 500,000 Gal. Diesel Fuel Tank

at Power Plant No.1, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals (Request for Proposals - RFP) from qualified and experienced Tank erection / installation firms for correction of existing defects, assembly, installation and commissioning a new Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST), as per the specifications contained in the proposal document and monitored through a construction management firm and a third party quality control firm, contracted by CUC. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Workplan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 and Integrity Inspection Program.

The Saipan Power plant is located in the Lower Base Industrial Area near the Saipan Seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The foundation, tank and accessories have been designed by a US based company and the tank assembly kit was supplied to Saipan port by the same company, United Industries Group, CA (UIG) for installation by a local contractor. The previous construction contractor has been terminated due to default and performance issues while the metal work and welding work was in progress. The project is currently in a partially finished state.

The purpose of this RFP is to ensure the CUC is to ensure that the new tank is built to the codes and standards to which it was originally designed, including the corrections necessary, details of which have been described in the RFP and meets the stringent tests and inspections noted therein. Upon being awarded the contract and receiving the Notice to Proceed (NTP), the contractor will complete the correction as provided in the RFP. Following schedules shall be noted by all vendors:

- Contract Award - **February 6, 2014**
- Notice to proceed / site mobilization - **February 13, 2014**
- Tank completion - **July 8, 2014**

The Scope-of-Work and Proposal package will be emailed, upon request, to all interested proposers, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM local time, until **December 18, 2013**.

A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit is scheduled at the Saipan CUC Power Plant 1, administration building on **December 18, 2013 at 10:00 AM**, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) Original and Six(6) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-14-003 - REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - Completion of Installation of a New 500,000 Gal. Diesel Fuel Tank at Power Plant No.1, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 31, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Upon award of the contract the Offeror is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposal. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code, with the proposal.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00am (ChST) on December 20, 2013**, to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Petroleum and Compliance Manager, Mr. Andrew Longworth at andrew.longworth@cucgov.org.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

CHARLES WARREN

Acting Executive Director

Historic stage resurrected after nearly two decades

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

The historic Mount Carmel School stage, where both the CNMI Constitution and Covenant were signed and where the school's Christmas program has been staged for the past 61 years, was unveiled Friday after months of renovation work.

Mount Carmel officials, students, and parents celebrated the official ribbon cutting for the stage during their Christmas program, during which

school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that "it is clearly still a work in progress."

This work in progress cost the school around \$10,000 this year alone to have the stage demolished, cleared, pay fees for contractors, purchase supplies, and have it redesigned.

Deleon Guerrero said the reopening of the stage does not end the renovation. "It is going to take a lot more

money and work, but at the very least we can use it for our annual Christmas program.

"I do not know how much it will cost to get it fully renovated; it will probably be around \$50,000," Deleon Guerrero added.

He expressed hope that the use of the stage during the program would spark interest in funding further renovations.

The stage was renovated 20 years

ago to serve as a classroom due to high student enrollment at the time. It has since deteriorated.

"We have been working with different contractors and government agencies to get it back up and we are finally there," Deleon Guerrero said.

"It's decent. It's better than the old one, of course. It looks live and reborn and perfect for this new year to come," said MCS student Markel Toves. "Can't wait to see memorable performances and events happen on that stage."

» Deleon Guerrero: Still a work in progress





Mount Carmel School officials cut the ribbon on their newly renovated stage.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

US Senate passes FY 2014 Defense budget bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. —Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued Friday the following statement on Senate passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. For a full rundown of provisions contained in the FY14 NDAA, refer to the following statement: <http://bordallo.house.gov/press-release/house-approves-compromise-national-defense-authorization-act-fiscal-year-2014>.

"I applaud the Senate for passing the defense authorization bill," said Bordallo. "The bill makes significant progress in the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam and Air Force programs on Guam. The bill underscores the United States' commitment to the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region by putting real resources to programs that are strategically important to the U.S. posture in the Asia-Pacific region. The bill provides the resources to ensure our forces are properly trained, equipped, and manned, all of which are the essence of military readiness. The defense authorization bill is must pass legislation and I'm glad the Senate acted quickly to pass the legislation without amendment. I appreciate the support of Chairman Buck McKeon, Ranking Member Adam Smith, Chairman Carl Levin and Ranking Member Jim Inhofe in developing this compromise legislation. I also appreciate the support of Governor Calvo and the Guam Legislature in advocating for provisions important to the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam." (PR)



CNMI Water Task Force IFB14-GOV-039

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the lease of a warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **December 23, 2013**.

All questions regarding this Invitation for Bids shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM, **January 3, 2014** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, at facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Sealed Bids must be marked "**Lease of Warehouse**", **IFB14-GOV-039**. An original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 P.M. , local time, on January 22, 2014** at which time Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC 70-30.3). Bid procedures shall be in full compliance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-205: Competitive Sealed Bidding. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/Eloy S. Inos
Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SUPPLY OF VIDEO LOTTERY CENTRAL CONTROL SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES RFP-GOV14-038

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude S. Hofschneider are soliciting proposals in compliance with NMIAC § 70-30.3-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) for the provision of video lottery central control system and associated services. The Commonwealth is seeking a qualified supplier to provide a system for monitoring and control of a proposed video lottery gaming operation up that complies with identified specifications to facilitate establishment of a video lottery gaming operations on the Island of Saipan for a twenty-year period.

The Request for Proposals ("RFP") will be available on December 16, 2013 from the Office of Capital Improvement, Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 (670-664-2375). Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on the factors as identified in the table below.

Element	Possible Points
I. Resources of proposer	25 points
a. Financial resources (15 points)	
b. Gaming experience (15 points)	
c. Entity resources (10 points)	
II. Proposed Commonwealth Central Control	25 points
a. Proposed hardware (10 points)	
b. Proposed software (20 points)	
c. Monitoring and Reporting capacity	
d. Security, Testing, and flexibility	
III. Cost Projections	25 points
IV. Revenue Requirements	25 points
Total	100 points

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 7, 2014 (ChST) to James R. Stump at the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

All proposals must be sealed and marked "RFP14-GOV-038 Supply of Video Lottery Central Control System and Associated Services" and in compliance with the request for proposal structure and include an original and six (6) copies and submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, January 31, 2014 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals. Proposer bears all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375.

PSS opposes CUC's proposed non-rate fees

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and Public School System finance director Derek Sasamoto have called on the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to junk the imposition of non-rate fees by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., saying the move would not only bring further chaos but would ultimately destroy the education system on the islands.

Under the rate case it filed with CPUC, the utility agency proposes to either increase or impose new fees. Although some of the recommended fees were postponed until the April regulatory session, several items are still up for CPUC action next

month. PSS specifically described as unreasonable CUC's proposed late charge of 10 percent of the past due amount. Currently, the penalty for late payments is 1 percent of the past due amount.

» **'Proposed ten-fold increase in late fees, disconnection notice fee will cost PSS millions of dollars'**

"The imposition of a ten-fold, or 1,000 percent, increase to the late charges is substantial and unreasonable. For an agency such as PSS, such a drastic increase will cripple operations

and significantly affect services that PSS provides," PSS officials told the commission, adding that unlike CUC, PSS does not generate revenue and has no mechanism to, for example, raise rates to fund operations.

According to Sablan, "the imposition of a ten-fold increase to late fees will cost PSS millions

of dollars each year and will destroy the agency, which will destroy public education."

PSS also disagrees with the imposition of a \$15 disconnection notice for electric as proposed by CUC.

"The \$15 fee may seem insignificant, but for PSS' financial difficulties, this fee will be significant if imposed. PSS' 19 schools, numerous programs, and central office equates to over 250 billings per month. If for example, PSS were to in-

cur this fee, this would equal to



Sablan

thousands of dollars each month. PSS has no plans to pay bills untimely, but the reality is PSS does not always receive its appropriations and this affects operations and cash disbursements," explained Sablan, adding that conditions like these are out of PSS control

but PSS absorbs the negative repercussions.

Moreover, according to Sablan, this fee is "quite hefty."

"It would seem reasonable to assume it takes CUC staff a few minutes or likely less to produce one disconnection notice. Yet the fee for one notice is \$15. Thus, CUC is charging \$15 for a minute or few minutes when it is highly likely the CUC staffer producing the notices does not receive compensation in the amount of \$15 per hour. Thus,

this fee appears unreasonable," said the commissioner.

PSS also sought clarification on the proposed labor fees, both after hours and regular business hours.

"How will these fees be applied? Will it be applied to every bill, for example? Will it be assessed on an hourly basis? Will it be assessed whenever a CUC employee interacts with a customer? With the sheer number of utility billings PSS receives each month, these costs again, will negatively impact operations," added the education official.

PIC holds soft opening for ISLA restaurant

The Pacific Islands Club Saipan held a soft opening for *Isla*, an upscale teppanyaki restaurant, offering guests a sophisticated and elegant dining experience.

Steve Balakrishna, director of Food & Beverage, said, "The *Isla* cuisine features traditional Japanese ingredients, fresh local products, CAB steak and seafood."

"The *Isla* Restaurant's design took inspiration from the islands' tropical forests, important for both the food and shelter that they provide," said Vicky Benavente, PIC executive assistant.

The restaurant's symmetrical design showcases light projections, which appear as though the sun is shining through the branches of a tree.

The contractor for the project



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ISLA Restaurant at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

was RNV Construction, and the design and construction management was provided by N15 Architects. "We held a soft opening a few weeks ago

and are planning a grand opening in the early part of 2014," Benavente said.

The *Isla* restaurant is open daily from 5:30pm to 9pm.

Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Maung San Din at telephone number 234-7976 Ext. 4126 or 5186. (PIC)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Advanced happy 14th birthday to Arron, who will be celebrating his special day on Dec. 25! This day always reminds me of that special emotion I felt the first time I saw you on your actual birthday. I feel so blessed to have you as my son and I thank God for giving me a wonderful child. Love, Mom.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR

SUPPLY OF VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES

RFP-GOV14-030

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude S. Hofschneider are soliciting proposals in compliance with NMIAC § 70-30.3-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) for the provision of video lottery terminals and associated services. The Commonwealth is seeking a qualified supplier to provide up to one thousand (1,000) video lottery terminals that comply with identified specifications and associated gaming software and services to establish and maintain video lottery gaming operations on the Island of Saipan for a twenty-year period.

The Request for Proposals ("RFP") will be available on December 16, 2013 from the Office of Capital Improvement, Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 (670-664-2375). Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on the factors as identified in the table below.

Element	Possible Points
I. Resources of proposer	30 points
a. Financial capacity (10 points)	
b. Gaming experience (10 points)	
c. Entity resources (10 points)	
II. Suggested Approach to Commonwealth Gaming	60 points
a. Understanding of market (10 points)	
b. Proposed approach (10 points)	
c. Proposed video lottery terminals (10 points)	
d. Proposed games (10 points)	
e. Preventative maintenance and upgrades (10 points)	
f. Total Costs (10 points)	
III. Required Revenue (10 points)	10 points

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 7, 2013 (ChST) to Mr. James Stump at the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

All proposals must be sealed and marked "RFP-GOV14-030 Supply of Video Lottery Terminals and Associated Services" and in compliance with the request for proposal structure and include an original and six (6) copies and submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, January 31, 2014 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals. Proposer bears all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR

VIDEO LOTTERY GAMING SITE AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES

RFP-GOV14-037

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude S. Hofschneider are soliciting proposals in compliance with NMIAC § 70-30.3-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) for the provision of video lottery gaming site and services. The services requested will be to provide a site for the conduct of video lottery gaming and associated services on the Island of Saipan.

The Request for Proposals ("RFP") will be available on December 16, 2013 from the Office of Capital Improvement, Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 (670-664-2375). Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on the factors as identified in the table below.

	Element	Points
1	Financial capacity of proposer	20
2	Gaming experience	20
3	Proposed gaming area	30
4	Business Plan	30
	Total	100

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 7, 2014 (ChST) to James R. Stump at the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

All proposals must be sealed and marked "RFP-GOV-037 Video Lottery Gaming Site Proposal" and in compliance with the request for proposal structure and include an original and four copies and submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, January 31, 2014 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

Foremost donates milk to community organizations

True to the spirit of the season, Foremost Foods Saipan recently donated over 300 cases of Foremost Non-fat Milk quarts to charitable institutions and other organizations that provide needs-based services to the community. These include NMI Salvation Army, Karidat, CHC Cafeteria, and the *man'amko*.

Rusty M. Loyola, operations manager, Foremost Foods Saipan, led the Foremost team in delivering non-fat milk to the organizations in time for the holidays. Salvation Army, which operates a food assistance program and soup kitchen, received 100 cases of Foremost Non-fat Milk, while the rest of the organizations were given 75 cases each.

Wayne Gillespie, ministry leader of the NMI Salvation Army, thanked the company



Jesse Tudela, fourth left, hospital administrator, Commonwealth Health Center, and his team at the CHC cafeteria accept the donation of 75 cases of Foremost Non-fat Milk. Rusty M. Loyola, fourth right, operations manager, Foremost Foods Saipan, presented the gift on behalf of the company.



Angie V. De Leon Guerrero, second right, executive director, Karidat, receives the delivery of 75 cases of Foremost Non-fat Milk from Rusty M. Loyola, right, operations manager, Foremost Foods Saipan. They are joined by the operations team of Foremost and volunteers of Karidat.

CHC, we greatly appreciate the donation from Foremost Food Saipan. The 75 cases of non-fat milk quarts will be nutritional to our in-patients as they will get their daily dose of calcium.”


Karidat executive director Angie V. De Leon Guerrero said, “We really appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of Foremost.”

Walter Manglona, director of the Office on Aging, said, “Thank you very much to Foremost. I’m sure our clients will appreciate your generous donation.”

Marcos W. Fong, CEO, Foremost Foods Saipan, reiterated the company’s commitment to forge a partnership with the community for a fit and healthy lifestyle. “Foremost has been a part of our island life for over 60 years. Providing our healthy products to service partners to reach those who rely on their valuable services is a meaningful way to give back to our island community,” he said. *(PR)*



Walter Manglona, back row, second right, director, Office on Aging, and members of the *man'amko* gather around the 75 cases of Foremost Non-fat Milk presented by Rusty M. Loyola, back row, right, operations manager, Foremost Foods Saipan.




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Behind Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950

Website: www.crm.gov.mp

Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION


December 23 , 2013

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Saipan Mayor’s Office	11/19/2013 SSm-2013-X-068	Beautification Project	San Jose, Saipan	Shoreline APC	Approved(12/10/2013)
2. Good Day Coordinating, Inc.	11/27/2013 SSm-2013-X-071	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved(11/27/2013)
3. Blue Lagoon Realty Inc.	12/10/2013 SSm-2013-X-072	Renovation	Chalan Kanoa	Shoreline APC	Under Review (12/18/2013)
4. Saipan International Real State Development, LTD	12/05/2013 SSm-2010-X-078 (Amend)	Land Clearing	Capitol Hill	Amendment	Approved (12/20/2013)*
5. Pacific Subsea Saipan	12/18/2013 SPIm-2013-X-073	Dry Dock	Sea Plane Ramp	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (12/19/2013)*
6. Pacific Subsea Saipan	12/18/2013 SPIm-2013-X-074	Dry Dock	Sea Plane Ramp	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (12/19/2013)*


Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.



Procurement And Supply

CNMI Government



INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-DLNR/DFW-034

Submission Date: January 09, 2014 Time: 10:00 A.M.

“GOLDEN WHITE-EYE RESEARCH

A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND

NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE”

Copies of the Scope of Work and specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Arnold I. Palacios
Secretary of DLNR

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

Mayor's Office unveils enhanced US Armed Forces Memorial

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Even as he paid tribute to the thousands of lives that perished on the islands during World War II, Saipan Mayor Donald P. Flores also gave thanks to tourists who continue to flock to the CNMI to enjoy its crystal clear waters, white sand beaches, and warm hospitality during the unveiling of the enhanced U.S. Armed Forces Memorial in Oleai on Friday.

"Through the vision, commitment, and hard work of the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, P&A Corp., and Mr. Tony Lim, our Island Beautification Project is now the centerpiece of Saipan's Hafa Adai Spirit. We are sure residents and visitors will enjoy the transformation of the place. Change is never a bad thing, if done right, and we did it right because we envisioned it and followed through with action," Flores said in his welcome remarks.

P&A Corp. donated funds to renovate the memorial, while Lim owns the building at the back of the memorial.

Flores said the idea behind the enhanced memorial sprang from a weekend project idea to show that the mayor's office cares for residents and visitors alike.

"We needed to contribute our time to make our island clean and beautiful. [So we] turned this into a beautiful project like what we have here today. Remember the old flame tree and palms that once stood on this ground? The flame tree and coconut palms were old and rotted. Residents and visitors who visited this ground were at risk of getting hurt from falling branches and coconut."

He said his office removed and eliminated that risk and residents of Saipan "now own this beautiful, colorful memorial."

"The U.S. Armed Forces Memorial here reminds us of the thousands of lives who fought for a single reason—that is, to bring people together to live in peace. The flags that you see here represent that single reason. As people from different nations, we have come together and are very proud to have ev-



Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and 2013 Liberation Day Queen Nicole Ichihara Sablan pose with Antonio Lim and P&A president Hong Hyun Kim, mayor staff, representatives, and other government officials.



MARK RABAGO

Lim Building owner Antonio Lim said the U.S. Armed Forces Memorial is a poignant reminder of military bravery and unselfish service to the United States.

everyone here as our neighbors and visitors."

He said the water wheel represents the islands' tour-



MARK RABAGO

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores poses with 2013 Liberation Day Queen Nicole Ichihara Sablan in front of the 10 flags of the enhanced U.S. Armed Forces Memorial.

ism industry, which has been the lifeline of the CNMI for many years.

"We hear a lot about making

our island nice and safe so that visitors will come back. Repeat visitors are as crucial to our success as a beautiful tourist desti-



MARK RABAGO

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores gave P&A president Hong Hyun Kim a commemorative plaque thanking him and his company for helping construct the enhanced memorial.

nation as welcoming new visitors. The water wheel signifies our goal of making sure we see many, many more repeat visi-

tors to our island, and that we pray they continue to pour in."

P&A Corp. president Hong Hyun Kim said he signed off on the project to honor the thousands who sacrificed their lives in the Battle of Saipan during World War II.

"Saipan now is such a peaceful place. However, more than 69 years ago, on the 15th of June 1944, as many as 3,144 soldiers fell in battle on this very spot. And I'm certain that a lot more soldiers from the opposite side and innocent civilians must have been killed as well. We should not let our beautiful island suffer the ravages of war ever again and I sincerely hope for the CNMI to keep itself peaceful and sound permanently."

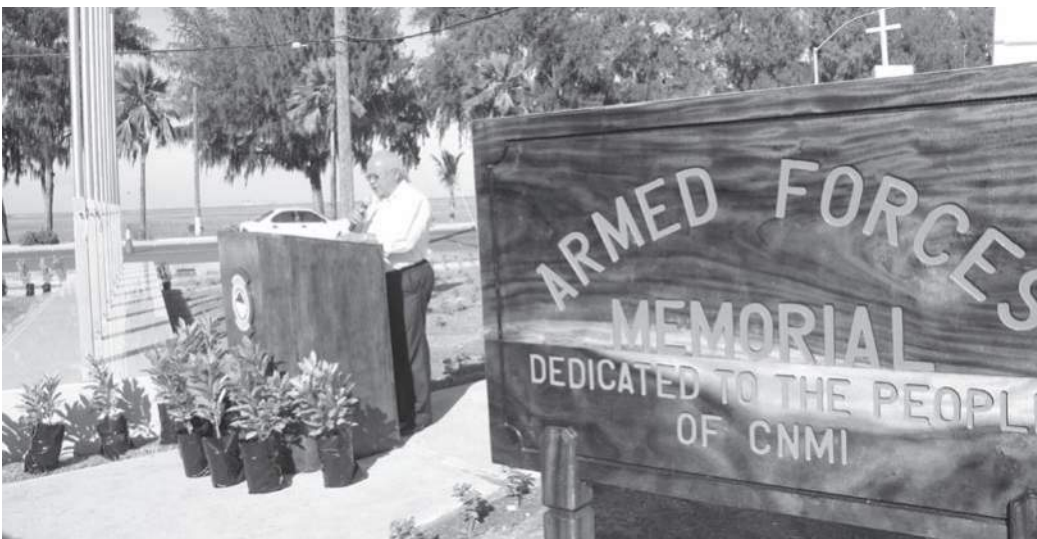
Lim, for his part, said the U.S. Armed Forces Memorial has a special place in his heart because he himself is a Korean War veteran and a resident of Saipan for more than 40 years.

"I was already here when I built this building in 1986, and over the years I have maintained it; however, it was deteriorating long before I arrived. The bronze plaque was very difficult to read and visitors would sometimes ask me to explain the significance of this monument."

Lim said the memorial is a poignant reminder of military bravery and unselfish service to the United States.

"The message conveyed is especially moving to those who lived through World War II. I am proud to have this memorial in front of my building. The memorial is a lasting expression of our continued gratitude to those who fought and those who gave their lives to the United States of America and for Saipan."

Close to a hundred government officials and staff and community members attended the unveiling ceremony, led by Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider, Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Department of Public World Secretary Martin Sablan, Veteran Affairs Office executive director Vicente Camacho, Japan Consul Koji Hiro, 12th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council councilman Diego Kaipat, and 2013 Liberation Day Queen Nicole Ichihara Sablan.



MARK RABAGO

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores delivers the welcome remarks in Friday's unveiling of the enhanced U.S. Armed Forces Memorial in Oleai.



MARK RABAGO

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, third left, is flanked by 12th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council councilman Diego Kaipat and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider.

Job-placement agency owner in CW1 scam pleads guilty

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mariano K. Pangelinan, a job-placement agency owner who was indicted with his two employees in federal court for allegedly conspiring to file petitions for CNMI-Only Transitional Worker permits for some alien workers that falsely and fraudulently named the company as the workers' employer, pleaded guilty on Friday.

The 70-year-old Pangelinan pleaded guilty to a count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud and to defraud the U.S.

as part of a plea deal with the U.S. government.

He will be sentenced on May 9, 2014.

U. S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona remanded Pangelinan into the custody of the U.S. Marshal for his return to local custody under the Department of Corrections. The defendant has a pending criminal case in Superior Court.

The indictment charged Pangelinan, Rosabella P. Cruz, and Helen N. Aparente with one count of con-

spiracy to commit visa fraud and to defraud the U.S.

In addition, Pangelinan was charged with 17 counts of visa fraud, Cruz with 13 counts of visa fraud and one count of false statement, and Aparente with four counts of visa fraud.

The U.S. government also included a criminal forfeiture allegation to recover any vehicle and property used in the commission of the offense.

Pangelinan was the alleged primary corporate officer of ARCH International Co. Ltd., which held itself out as a job-placement agency that could help

aliens in need of CW-1 permits find employment and obtain CW-1 permits.

Cruz and Aparente were alleged employees of ARCH.

According to the indictment, Pangelinan, Cruz, and Aparente conspired from July 2011 through July 2013 to defraud U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services by submitting fake employment contracts for 17 alien workers.

Aparente had fled to the Philippines. The U.S. government is currently working on the extradition process to bring Aparente to Saipan.

Docomo Yolanda text campaign extended until tomorrow

Docomo Pacific's fundraising campaign to benefit victims of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in the central Philippines has been extended to tomorrow, Dec. 24.

The telecommunication company's general manager, James Nelson, said that Docomo Pacific will tally the funds raised through the campaign and will make public the results as soon as possible.

The text campaign for victims of Yolanda is made through Docomo Pacific's community organization, Docomo Pacific Cares, and was initially through Dec. 15.

All proceeds generated in the text campaign will be forwarded to the Filipino Community of Guam for coordination with the Ayuda Foundation, the Consulate General of the Philippines, and the Office of the Governor of Guam.

Nelson said the funds will be used to purchase medical supplies to assist the many victims of the typhoon.

Monetary donations for this fundraising campaign will be generated through the following:

- Docomo Pacific mobile customers can donate \$5 by texting "DONATE" to 4357 (HELP). There is no monetary limit and customers can text as many times as they like. Both post-paid and prepaid customers are eligible to participate.

- Monetary donation boxes will be set up at all Docomo Pacific retail locations.

- The employee association of Docomo Pacific, DOCOMOTION, will also be collecting donations and raising additional monies through various fundraising events.

In related news, Nelson said Docomo Pacific aired for free GMA Pinoy TV on Channel 21 as a public service to Filipinos on Saipan in the wake of devastation brought by Yolanda in the central Philippines last Nov. 8.

"We offered GMA free so that we can all be informed on what is happening immediately after the super-typhoon."

The free channel ended midnight of Dec. 18. *(Mark Rabago)*

High surf warning out

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management issued a high surf advisory yesterday, warning the public of dangerous surf that is expected to last until Wednesday.

The high surf advisory is now in effect until 6pm Wednesday.

"A long period north swell generated by a large storm east of Japan will continue to arrive for the next several days and maintain high surf along north facing reefs. For these exposures hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet will continue until Wednesday. Surf is expected to subside below hazardous levels by Thursday."

The public and inexperienced mariners are advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. *(PR)*

Mariana Resort, PWS introduce iPad wine list



MARK RABAGO

Mariana Resort & Spa executive chef William Retardo, second from left, and Guam Food Guy Ken Stewart hold two of the four iPads provided by Pacific Wines & Spirits, Inc. to serve as e-wine lists at the 12th Night Restaurant. Also in photo are PWS owner and president Daniel Matsuno, left, and PWS sales coordinator Aileen Labadnoy.

The wine list at Mariana Resort & Spa's 12th Night Restaurant has gone paperless after the hotel's F&B division teamed up with Pacific Wine & Spirits, Inc. to introduce an iPad wine list.

PWS sales coordinator Aileen Labadnoy said they have provided the outlet's wait staff with four iPads that they can use to show customers the types of wines available at the restaurant.

She said the use of an iPad wine list at the 12th Night Restaurant is a pilot project and, if successful, PWS will introduce the new technology in other restaurants and establishments around the island.

Aside from the wines' origin, information on the iPad wine list includes its vintage, cost, and the kind of wine a customer has chosen.

Guam Food Guy Ken Stewart said the introduction of an iPad wine list at Marianas Resort is an acknowledgment that even on Saipan, customers



MARK RABAGO

Pacific Wines & Spirits, Inc. owner and president Daniel Matsuno leads a toast during the company's Christmas party last Dec. 13 at the Mariana Resort & Spa.

Island Snapshots



CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE
Kagman High School's JROTC Annual Christmas Food Drive was once again a big success. The cadets were able to collect over 200 food items or \$250 worth of canned goods and other commodities for families in need during this holiday season. The donation was given to the Karidat for distribution throughout the community. From left to right, C/SSG Kris Butters, C/PFC Nathan Santos, C/PFC Jennifer Camacho, C/LTC Paolo Reyes, Ayuyu battalion commander, C/MAJ Adrian Ngalongalo, C/CPL Saeem Reza, C/SGT Alfredo Ngalongalo, C/PFC Elisha Ogumoro, C/2LT Vladimir Arceo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

A total of 41 JROTC cadets from Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion conducted their service learning project by visiting the Man'amko Center on Wednesday, Dec. 18. The cadets performed their 12th annual Christmas show at the Aging Center to spread happiness and joy to the senior citizens. The performance included the Exhibition Fancy Drill Team unarmed, the Rifle Drill Team armed, Christmas caroling, and distribution of handmade Christmas cards. The *man'amko* were thrilled with the KHS JROTC entertainment for the holidays.

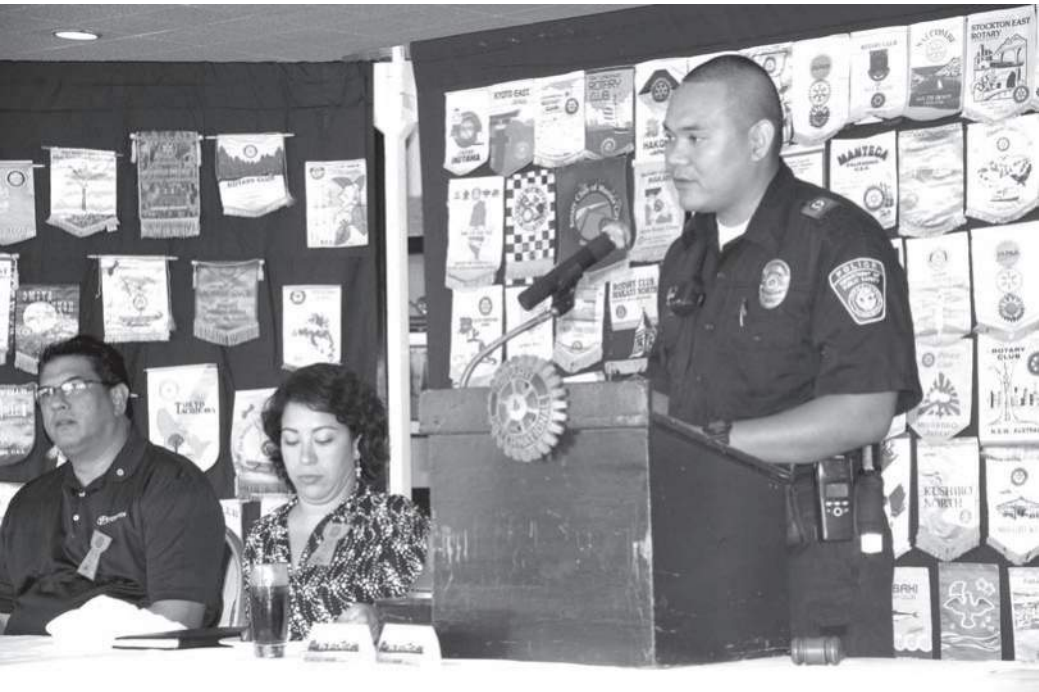
CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



PASSING ON THE LIGHT

Northern Marianas College education student Joan Bahillio, far left, lights the candle of an underclassman during a recent candle lighting ceremony hosted by instructors from the College's School of Education. The NMC School of Education students, who recently completed their degree program and are slated to graduate in May 2014, lit the candles of current students who will soon start their student teaching practicum, to help welcome them as they begin this new phase in their journeys to becoming teachers.

NMC



3D CAMPAIGN

Police officer Adrian Mendiola talks about the Department of Public Safety's "3D" Prevention Campaign during last week's meeting at the Rotary Club of Saipan.

MARK RABAGO

'A challenging, inspiring 2013 for PSS'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although it faced great challenges in its financials, the Public School System will end the year with a lot of inspiration that it could carry forward for a better year ahead, according to Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero.

He described 2013 as both challenging and inspiring for all education officials, staff, and students on three islands.

"Overall, we did well in 2013. We have worked very hard in terms of addressing the audit findings, we have complied with the Head Start requirements, and we did a good job in our accreditation considering that's the first time we've done it," Guerrero said.

He said these were among the major issues that PSS and the Board of Education successfully completed on time.

Early this year, a team from the federal Head Start office conducted its tri-annual review

of the program, the results of which would determine if PSS will continue to handle the federal program. During the weeklong comprehensive assessment, the visiting team identified only two minor issues. Corrective action plans for these two deficiencies were submitted to the federal agency last month and a decision is expected early next year.

Due to several concerns cited in its audit, most of which pertain to travel and reimbursements, the board—in coordination with the PSS management—adopted related policies to address the auditor's concerns. The audit report is reportedly in the final stages.

In October, teams from the North Central Association, the accrediting commission for the CNMI-PSS, were on island for their inspection and review. The group, in its exit report, lauded the public schools and highly

recommended the institution's five-year accreditation with the organization.

In terms of student achievement, Guerrero lauded the steady increase in the number of CNMI students participating and actually bagging national honors for the Commonwealth. He cited the outstanding performances of local students in STEM Fair competitions, forensic leagues, spelling bee, and other national contests.



Guerrero

Most notable, Guerrero said, was the overwhelming performance of the "Aeronautical Dolphins" of Marianas High School, which won the top prize in the Real World Design Challenge, a nationally recognized science and engineering competition for high school students throughout the nation.

Also in 2013, PSS successfully hosted the historic Pacific Education Conference that saw

the participation of educators around the Pacific region. PSS also posted a record-breaking performance of students in all grade levels in the yearly Stanford Assessment Test, or SAT-10.

When asked how Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan performed in 2013, Guerrero gave positive comments. "I think overall the commissioner's performance is more than satisfactory. She's an aggressive leader and I think it shows in our schools," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan, who serves at the pleasure of the board, has a four-year contract as chief executive officer of PSS.

If there's one major issue that continues to challenge the system, Guerrero said, it is the limited funding for public education. However, because of the creativity, resourcefulness and commitment to serve students' first, this did not hamper the good performance of students and the system during the 12-month period, he added.

PSS treats lawmakers, media to 'Christmas Around the World'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All roads led to the main office of the Public School System in Susupe Friday morning for the "Christmas Around the World," a special breakfast treat by PSS for two of its key partner groups: lawmakers and the media.

Held at the main headquarters ground, the festivity was highlighted by various dishes prepared by every personnel of each unit of the central office.

Education Commissioner Dr.

Rita A. Sablan said the special treat is a tradition for PSS to express its gratitude to members of the executive and legislative branches as well as the media outlets that continue to support the school system.

Seen with fellow guests were Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, *Marianas Variety* president Laila Y. Boyer and associate editor Alexie Zotomayor, KKMP's Rosemond Santos, KSPN reporters Bob Coldeen and Lanie

Walker, and Taro Leaf's media specialist Ulysses Sabuco, among other attendees.

Several House members also joined the occasion to honor PSS' education awardees by conferring resolutions to each and every awardee.

School principals and program managers also graced the occasion, along with other stakeholders.

"This is a tradition for PSS and we've been doing this for the last five years. Each year, we want to dedicate—during

Christmas season—a time to celebrate with our media partners and members of the Legislature. It's the time we want to sit down and just celebrate the occasion with them," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The food ranged from special pastries and cakes, to local delicacies like *titiyas* and rice cakes, special breakfast packs, and soups, among others.

Guests were also treated to holiday songs by the Marianas High School's Rhythm N' Harmony.

Guard files discrimination suit vs poker operators

A security guard filed on Friday a discrimination lawsuit in federal court against poker operators for allegedly terminating him from his job because of complaints he made to the U.S. Department of Labor for illegal deductions on his wages.

Edward Iriarte, through counsel Colin Thompson, is suing D.K.K. Inc., owner of Dollar Poker II, and its principals Hong Kyun Kim and Kyoung Min Oh, for retaliation and discrimination

based on race and national origin.

Iriarte asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the defendants to pay him an unspecified amount of back pay with prejudgment interest, front pay, compensation, damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Thompson stated in the complaint that on May 28, 2013, Iriarte went to U.S. Labor to notify it that the defendants were making illegal deductions on employees' wages, in violation

of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Thompson said the U.S. Labor-Wage and Hour Division opened an investigation into the defendants' business practice of making illegal deductions from employees' payroll.

In May 2013, Iriarte began hearing co-workers talking about the appearance of U.S. Labor investigators in the work place.

At the end of May 2013, Iriarte and his wife went to pick up his paycheck. Thompson said

that Joo Ho Joon, general manager of D.K.K., asked the Iriarte couple why they complained to U.S. Labor.

On June 13, 2013, Iriarte was terminated from his job. Kim allegedly told Iriarte that he was terminated for his many complaints, together with his wife, Thompson said.

Iriarte allegedly asked to be rehired but the company refused.

At a meeting on Aug. 12, 2013, Thompson said that general manager Joo told Iriarte that he was terminated because the company did not want more problems and complaints.

The company then paid the Iriarte couple for the reimbursement of the illegal deductions made between June 2011 and June 2013.

Thompson said that D.K.K.'s management team is predominantly Korean and the company favors Korean employees.

Thompson alleged that defendants discriminated against Iriarte, a Chamorro, by paying him less, providing him fewer benefits, fewer working hours, and less respect than non-Chamorros. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Commitment to relationship ends at computer keyboard

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I am a woman in an exclusive, committed relationship with "Vince." We have talked about a future together and getting married. My only issue is I can't seem to keep him off of dating sites. Even when I catch Vince red-handed, he'll deny it or blame it on his friend "using his ID."

I have asked him over and over to delete the sites, but he won't. He continues to tell me he's in love with me and wants only me. He says I'm the woman of his dreams. If that's true, there should be no need for him to look anymore, right?

Please help me understand his obsession, and if there are any tools I can use to be more effective to talk to Vince about this.

FUMING IN FLORIDA

DEAR FUMING: Your communication tools are just fine. Your ability to recognize when someone is stringing you along is what needs improvement.

You may feel you are in a committed relationship, but Vince appears to be less committed than you are. Worse, he also has a problem telling the truth. If Vince wanted only you and was ready to settle down, he wouldn't compulsively look online to see who else is available.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm conflicted about my role in supporting my children through the death of my ex-wife. We divorced 25 years ago. There was no significant other in her life. I would like to support them emotionally, but I feel the burial, funeral, etc., are matters for their family and her relatives.

My question is, am I right? And how soon should I go and be with my children? We have been in close touch, and I believe they know that I care and I'm here for them. They live across the country, so the distance and cost of transportation are concerns.

CONFLICTED IN TEXAS

DEAR CONFLICTED: I'm sure no one expects you to contribute financially to the funeral of someone from whom you have been divorced for a quarter of a century. However, you should ask your adult children if they would like you to attend for emotional support. Because they are all grown and presumably busy with their lives, if your presence isn't needed at the funeral, you could schedule a family reunion at a time when it's convenient for all of you.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: What do I do about a friend who often interrupts a conversation to check his phone and look up the topic on the Internet? He then adds to—or corrects—the discussion we are having. It's starting to ruin the friendship. Any advice?

OVERCORRECTED IN TEXAS

DEAR OVERCORRECTED: Whether someone doing this is offensive or not depends upon the spirit in which it's being done. Your friend may not be certain that what he—or you—is saying is correct and he wants to verify it. Often when people check information online, they find more information on the subject. Your friend may be doing it in the spirit of helpfulness. My husband and I do this with each other often, and neither of us is offended.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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HUDDLE UP!

Lance Cpl. Michael Bridenstine plays with a group of children at Tinian Elementary School during a community relations event on Dec. 4. Service members were on Tinian for Exercise Forager Fury II. CPL. JOSEPH KARWICK

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

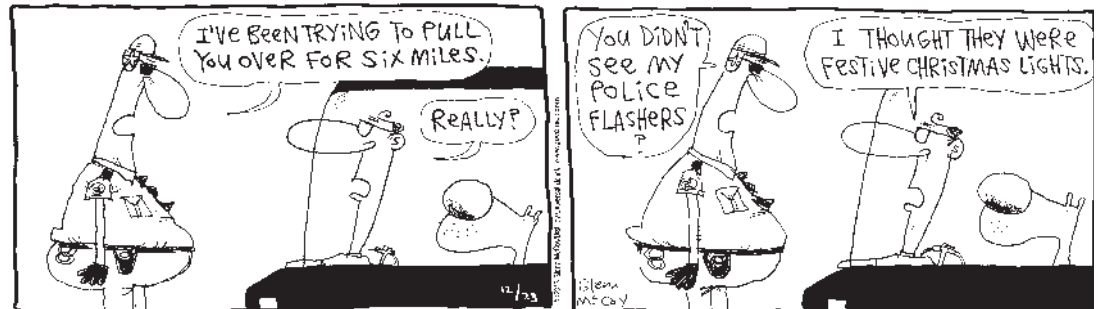
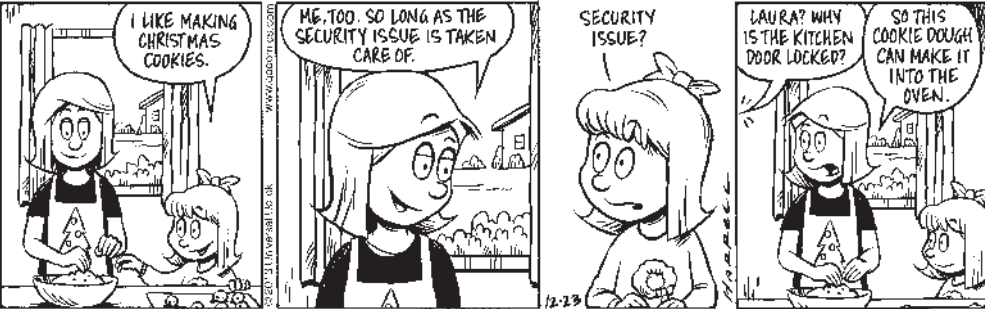


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bath site gear, for short

4 Swiss ski resort

9 Poke Spanish wine

12 "— was saying ..."

13 Dodge Fleming

14 First lady

15 "Barbar-ella" star

17 Help Squirrel's voice

18 Lobbying org.

19 Tweaks Unaccompanied

21 — party (sleep-over)

24 Knocks occupant

25 Swelled head

26 School's Website suffix

28 Wanderer

31 Historic times

33 Man-mouse link

35 Turkey stuffing herb

36 Dash-board, e.g.

38 In the env.

40 Operate

41 On

DOWN

2 "Born in the —"

3 Crib

4 Malign

5 Guaca-mole

6 Moving vehicle

7 Stranger

8 Sailor

9 "Design-ing Women"

10 Enthusi-astic

11 Founda-tions

16 Ecologi-cal org.

20 Long narrative poem

21 Incubator noise

22 City of India

23 Oscar nominee as Pat Nixon

27 End for past or post

29 Chills and fever

30 Hide-aways

32 Plant bristle

34 Really old

37 Impasse

39 Rubs the wrong way

42 Abdul or Zahn

44 Popular card game

45 Numbers course

46 Lotion additive

50 Neither mate

51 Disen-cumber

52 Expert

53 Ever-green type

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	C	E	L	A	V	F	R	O	Z	E
S	O	V	I	F	I	L	O	V	E	R
S	U	V	P	R	O	M	E	N	A	D
E	G	O	S	A	L	S	A			
T	H	I	S		M	A	R		G	A
				L	E	E	P	R	O	M
A	P	R	I	L					A	L
P	R	O	M	O	S		B	Y	F	
T	O	B	E		P	E	A		M	Y
				D	A	M	N	S		A
P	R	O	M	I	N	E	N	T		H
V	I	R	A	L		N	E	A		O
C	O	B	O	L		D	R	Y		O

Friday's answer 12-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Greg Biffle, 44; Eddie Vedder, 49; Susan Lucci, 67; Harry Shearer, 70.

Happy Birthday: Honesty and assessing situations accurately will be necessary if you don't want to suffer loss. Money matters will have the potential to change rapidly depending on how you handle investments and your spending habits. Impulse will be your downfall and caution your saving grace. Slow down and do things right the first time and you will excel. Your numbers are 5, 8, 17, 28, 33, 37, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Spending time with someone much older or younger than you will be insightful. What you learn will help you make a decision that you've been laboring over for some time. Do the ground-work and prepare to execute your plan. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Travel or getting together with someone you haven't seen in a long time will brighten your day. Love is on the rise, and personal talks and sharing information will bring good results. Help someone in need and you'll feel good and prosper. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Last-minute running about, getting things out of the way, and making plans for the close of one year and the beginning of another will keep you busy. An emotional memory is likely to leave you thinking about someone from your past. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for something unique or participate in an event that deals with different traditions

or cultures than what you are used to. Learning and sharing will open doors to new adventures. Love is in the stars. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You need a change of scenery. Added responsibilities will bog you down and cause anxiety and anger. Consider all sides to any situation you face before you lose patience. Excess and impulsive actions will lead to criticism. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Socializing, getting together with old friends and picking up items you will need over the festive season will all lead to an exhausting but rewarding day. Prioritize what needs to be done and head out into the crowds. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Helping someone in need will make you feel good. A little can go a long way if you show kindness and are willing to share. Don't let criticism or complaints weigh on your mind. Do what you feel is right. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Tie up loose ends at work and at home. Knowing you have everything under control will help you enjoy the activities going on in your community. A unique approach to year-end festivities will encourage friendships. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Tread carefully when shopping. Don't believe someone making an offer too good to be true. Deception is apparent. Keeping your wits about you when dealing with friends, children or anyone you have an emotional attachment to will be necessary. Proceed with caution. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look over your investments and make any adjustments required before the year comes to a close. Special gifts are heading your way. Fixing up your residence or entertaining friends and family will boost your reputation and your confidence. Romance is highlighted. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Travel plans may limit what you can accomplish today. Stick close to home if possible. A change in your financial situation is apparent. Don't make an impulsive move or be too charitable when you cannot afford to be. Offer your assistance, not your cash. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Finish up odd jobs. Say little but do a lot. Focus on your budget and getting the most for the least. Socialize with friends and peers and set up meetings for after the holidays. Make love and romance a priority. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, diplomatic and charming. You are insightful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6	7			3			1		
5					1	2		6	
			5	9	6		4		
		1				8	9		
8	9		1			3		5	
	3	7				4			
	8		6	2	7				
7		6	9					3	
	4			8			7	2	

Difficulty Level ★

12/23

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	8	4	7	1	9	5	3
7	4	1	9	3	5	2	8	6
9	5	3	8	2	6	1	4	7
3	2	4	7	5	9	6	1	8
1	9	5	2	6	8	7	3	4
8	7	6	3	1	4	5	9	2
5	1	7	6	8	3	4	2	9
6	3	9	5	4	2	8	7	1
4	8	2	1	9	7	3	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/27

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NELSON MANDELA (1918-2013)

Solution: 9 letters

F T U M W O R K M A M G G R A
R A A N F R R A Z R L R R E S
E S T T I A E I O E M A A T O
E E N H A T N F A V N C N I H
E D E L E D E D E T I A D R X
M O D W Z R E Z R N R M N E K
O C I I U R O A A G J A A I N
H E S N M A N L R C A C L O N
T W E N A S C O I P P H B Y Y
A I R I K A T N U H O E N T L
G Z P E B A T L S S Q L A I E
K A I I C U N U S W L A I C V
A K D D E S G N I M R A H C E
M A E L I K E B M E H T L L Y
M M E S S O U T H A F R I C A

© 2013 Universal Jclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 12/23

Charming, City, CODESA, Elect, Evelyn, Father, Free, Graca, Grand, Grants, Home, Join, Kraal, Land, Laws, Leader, Machel, Madiba Clan, Makaziwe, Makgatho, Mase, Mediator, Mvezo, Nobel, Peace, Policy, President, Qunu, Reform, Retire, Rolihlahla, Sisulu, South Africa, Tata, Team, Thembekile, Transkei, Unite, Winnie, Work, Xhosa, Zenani, Zindiswa, Zuma
Last Friday's Answer: Exercises
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit wonderword.universalclic.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Good sense

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

CENT SENT SCENT

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Accountant/Auditor

Bachelor's Degree in Accounting (may be foreign equivalent); 5 years experience; U.S. CPA. Performs all accounting and auditing related duties for certified public accounting firm located in Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP/CNMI. Prepares financial statements, audit reports, attestation reports, individual & corporate income taxes and other compliance taxes.

Send resume to Burger & Comer, P.C., P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950

APARTMENTS FOR RENT



Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. \$250/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. \$350-\$550/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. \$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill)
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. \$550/month

LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater. \$350-\$450/month

- FEATURES:**
- Fully Furnished
 - Back-up Generator
 - Air-conditioning in all rooms
 - FREE WiFi
 - Laundry Area
 - Nighttime Security
 - Ample Parking
 - 24hr water

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com
Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT WINCHELL'S DONUTS

1 vacancy for **Operations Manager**. Wage per hour depends on qualifications. Must be college level with at least 5 years of continued experience in managing a bakery or similar operations; must be capable of managing 15 or more people and more than one store; must be computer literate and possesses knowledge in operating cash register or POS system; must have an experience in handling the administrative and financial aspect of a business. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese or other foreign languages is highly preferred.

1 vacancy for **Store Manager**. Wage per hour depends on qualifications. Must be college level and has at least 2 years of continued experience in managing bakery operations; must have knowledge in operating cash register or POS system; must be customer-service oriented, computer literate and confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese or other foreign languages is highly preferred.

4 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers**. Wage ranges from \$5.55/hr to \$5.70/hr. Must be a high school graduate with an equivalent of at least 4 years experience in baking; must be able to read, write and speak basic English; must be capable of lifting at least 50lbs and has basic mathematical skills and knowledge in operating a cash register or POS system. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese and other foreign languages is highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health with good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards; provide current police/court clearance and health certificate. Must have reliable transportation and must undergo a drug test.

Applications may be obtained and submitted at Winchell's Garapan from 8am to 12pm or email them at dennys@guam.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Century Tours, Inc. is inviting qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

Operations Clerk (03)

Job Duties: Plan, create, arrange and operate tour and travel programs. Responsible for organizing and preparing tour itineraries to make sure meeting visitors requirements. Provide and organize vacation and holidays packages by coordinating and negotiating with airlines, hotels, ground transportation services, tour guides and sightseeing providers, restaurants and other similar businesses, as per contact and agreed customer service levels. Develop and maintain smooth working relationship with customers and business partners both in China and domestic. Provide advice on sightseeing and shopping activities, report any problems to related supervisor/manager, and solve problems with accommodations, itineraries or service, etc. Perform related administrative tasks such as processing paperwork and maintaining files and working comfortably both independently and within a team. Assist the Department Manager in achieving his/her objectives. Input and update of bookings records. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: Minimum of 1 year of operation experience. High school education minimum. Good command of English and Chinese. Good computer skills and familiar with internet applications. Good writing and communication skills. Focus on details and thoroughness. Able to work with a team & under pressure. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Applications may be obtained at the Century Tours, Inc. Office at the Kanoa Resort, Ground Floor located on Beach Road in Susupe, Saipan while resumes may be emailed at camille.orallo@saipan.travel. All resumes and applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Department at the Century Tours, Inc. Front Office no later than Thursday, December 26, 2013. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing may be required prior to employment.

We are an Equal Employment Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Fiesta Inc. is currently seeking

(1) Commercial Cleaner

Interested applicants must email a resume to hrd3@joeten.com

American K&W Corporation

PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
5 - Masseuse
Salary \$5.55 p/h. High School graduate. Minimum 5 years experience. Knowledge in Chinese and Japanese languages a plus.

If interested, email thomastchong@gmail.com

CARS FOR SALE

2013 Silver Toyota Rav4
4Cyl., 7 Seats, Like New. 3K miles.
Warranted by Mfrs. \$23,900.00

2006 Toyota Camry
4Cyl. 50K miles. One Owner. Good Run A/C and A/T. \$7,500.00

2005 Kia Spectra
4Cyl. 60K miles. One Owner. Good Run A/C and A/T. \$5,900.00

Please call
483-9400 or 234-1232

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1-GOLDSMITH/PRECIOUS METAL WORKER

- SALARY: \$ 5.55 PER HOUR - FULL TIME
- MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN GOLDSMITH
- MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN GOLD & SILVER JEWELRY REPAIR, FABRICATING HAWAIIAN STYLE, GEM STONE SETTING & MOUNTING. DO RELATED WORKS.

1-ACCOUNTANT

- SALARY: \$ 5.55 PER HOUR - FULL TIME
- MINIMUM 3-4 YEARS EXPERIENCE WITH COLLEGE DEGREE
- MUST HAVE KNOWLEDGE IN JEWELRIES, PRECIOUS STONE INVENTORY

MAIL RESUME TO KING'S INC.
P.O. BOX 5050 CHR, SAIPAN, MP 96950
OR FAX (670) 234-8868

www.saipantribune.com

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Farmer. Salary \$5.55. Minimum of 2 years experience. Call 433-5333, Island Garden.

(1) Cook. Salary \$5.55. Minimum of 2 years experience. Call 433-5333, Island Garden.

(1) Restaurant Supervisor. Salary \$5.55. Minimum of 2 years experience. Call 433-5333, Island Garden.

(2) Janitor and Cleaner, (8) Household Worker, (2) Maintenance and Repair Worker, \$5.55/hr, send resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. P.O. Box 504053, Saipan MP 96950.

WANTED TO BUY

We buy used cars! Accepting all make and models from 97' & up. Call 287-8688 DPA CAR MART

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
\$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #4 - Size: 9,000sq/ft
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
\$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Clinical Embryologist

Must have 2 years lab experience, plus experience in clinical embryology.
Salary Negotiable.
Call Karen at 322-0419

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Store Manager - min. 5 yrs work related exp., must speak, write & read Chinese & Japanese. Flexible working hrs. \$5.55 - \$6.00/hr.
(1) Accountant - Must have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting with min. 5 yrs exp. Proficient in MS Word, Excel, MYOB / AccountEdge Premium Accounting Software. Effective oral & written communication skills. \$5.55 - \$7.50/hr
Applicants should mail their resume with job reference to PMB 1118 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950, American Saipan Best Corporation dba Saipan Best Shopping Market

MAKE-A-WISH

Visit us at 885 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: maw@guam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

SaipanTribune

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Candidates are to have the following minimum qualifications:

- Associate's degree from an accredited college in secretarial, business, accounting or related field, or an equivalent additional two years of secretarial experience Three years of progressive accounting experience preferably in cost accounting;
- Six (6) years of progressively responsible administrative or secretarial experience

Candidates must be able to demonstrate successful accomplishments in the following areas:

- provide personal and confidential services to relieve Managing Director, CNMI (MD) and Executive Director, Customer Operations (EDCO) of routine tasks and to assist in the research and draft-completion of more sophisticated tasks from them and other executive directors and senior managers;
- maintain the calendars of the MD and EDCO, schedule appointments, arrange travel and perform other administrative and secretarial duties, using initiative and analytical processes to resolve routine administrative problems, answer questions and correspondence, and minimize disruptions to their schedules

Applicants must apply online at www.ite.net under careers by December 27, 2013.

As an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, we afford equal opportunity to all applicants and employees for hire and promotion without regard to race, color, origin, gender, age, marital status, religion, veteran status, or disability
We are also a Drug Free Workplace.

Francisco V. and Linda O. Cabrera
P.O. Box 501084
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 256-2626

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of) FCD-AD-CIVIL
The Adoption Of:) ACTION
) NO. 13-0612
G. M. DC. C.)
(d.o.b. 10/21/2012)) NOTICE OF
) HEARING
Minor Child)
)
By)
)
Francisco V. and)
Linda O. Cabrera)
Petitioner(s))

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 27, 2014 at 1:30pm in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Govendo.

Dated this 18th day of December, 2013.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

ATKINS KROLL, INC. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 93-0347
Plaintiff, : and consolidated cases
 : (S.C. Nos. 92-415, 92-517,
-v- : 92-604, 92-660, 92-674,
 : 92-680, 92-718, 92-825,
 : 92-826, 92-829, 92-1073,
CARMEN L. MUNA, aka : 92-1325, 92-1420, 92-1484,
CARMEN FUJIHIRA, : 92-1494, 92-1563, 93-147,
and CINDY L. MUNA, : 93-156, 93-163, 95-411,
Defendants. : 95-701, 97-987, 99-258,
 : 01-1322, and 02-768)

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on April 12, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Carmen L. Muna, fka Carmen Fujihira, and Edwin P. Fujihira, in and to the following property:

Lot No. 002 G 216, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,037 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 06 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1903 dated May 14, 1990.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 17, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 17th day of December, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2013-CDA-05-RFP

Submission Date: January 6, 2014 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"BROWNFIELDS MARKET FEASIBILITY STUDY"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor in Oleai, Saipan during regular business hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2013-CDA-06-RFP

Submission Date: January 6, 2014 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"BROWNFIELDS MARKETING PLAN FOR CDA"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor in Oleai, Saipan during regular business hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-COTA/FTA-035

Submission Date: January 09, 2014 Time: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2013 MOBILITY EQUIPPED VANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

The specifications for this project will be available on or after December 16, 2013 at COTA, Office of the Special Assistant for Public Transportation, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

This is a federally funded project; bidders are required to comply with FTA federal contract clauses as applicable.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho
Special Assistant for Public Transportation

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-COTA/FTA-036

Submission Date: January 09, 2014 Time: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) 2013 MOBILITY EQUIPPED VANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TRANSIT AUTHORITY"


The specifications for this project will be available on or after December 16, 2013 at COTA, Office of the Special Assistant for Public Transportation, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

This is a federally funded project; bidders are required to comply with fta federal contract clauses as applicable.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho
Special Assistant for Public Transportation

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S



PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(4) GARDENER

Minimum three (3) years of work experience; Must have a working knowledge in landscaping chemistry. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) TEPPANYAKI COOK

Minimum five (5) years related work experience; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(3) MUSICIAN (3-pc band)

Minimum two (2) years experience as a musician; Must be able to perform music in English as well as Japanese/Korean/Russian; Need to be able to play a variety of music genres, classical, pop, rock, reggae, country etc. Must be able to play on an individual, duo and trio basis; At least one member must be a classical pianist, playing classical music during restaurant dining hours. Must be able to host events, MC events, be able to promote audience participation during sing-a-long shows. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. Subject to audition.

(4) FOOD & BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR

Three (3) years related work experience plus two (2) years supervisory experience is required. Supervises employees engaged in serving foods in restaurants and maintaining cleanliness of food service areas and equipment; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) GUEST SERVICE SUPERVISOR

Two (2) years supervisory experience plus experience driving large passenger vehicles are required; Must be able to work graveyard shifts/weekends/holidays. Must be at least 18 years of age, possess a valid CNMI driver's license, and pass a medical exam and substance abuse test. Must provide a traffic clearance with application.

(1) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR (SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES DEPT)

Responsible for property wide sound systems and in-house video. Must have a strong background in Audio and Video operations and repair. Responsible for all technical aspects on all event orders, and making sure that these areas are covered. Responsible for setting up, operating and breaking down audio/video equipment. Responsible for training staff in the operations and mechanics of all technician duties (setting up band equipment, setting up and operating A/V equipment). Act as lead light and sound technician for all Clubmate PM shows. Assist in Clubmate duties when necessary. Must be able to meet and perform all requirements of the PIC Clubmate position including meeting all American Red Cross life guarding standards. Three (3) years of experience as Supervisor in similar role is required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) AIR CONDITIONER AUTO MECHANIC

Minimum four (4) years of work experience; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(4) BAKER

Minimum three (3) years of related work experience; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION.


Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.


A copy of valid police clearance (less than 6 months old) must be attached to the application.

Skills testing may be required for some positions. PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Completed applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, December 24, 2013.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR BOND TRUSTEE SERVICES
2013-CDA-07-RFP
Friday, December 6, 2013

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 3, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA), are soliciting proposals for bond trustee services.

The original and six (6) copies of a proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time (Chst) on Thursday, December 26, 2013. No proposals will be accepted after that date and time. Proposals shall be in sealed envelopes marked "Proposal for Bond Trustee Services" and delivered to the attention of:

Mr. Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement and Supply (P&S)
Department of Finance
Government of the Northern Mariana Islands
Lower Base
Saipan, MP 96950

Copies of the RFP package may be obtained from the CDA office, CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan. Electronic copies of the Proposal will not be accepted. The CDA reserves the right to reject any proposal that in its sole determination is not in the best interest of the CNMI Government.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
CDA Executive Director

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

Tinian Prospect Company

is seeking qualified candidates for the following positions for construction project on Tinian.

(2)	Project manager	\$10.00/hr.	(3 years experience)
(10)	Project engineer	\$6.50/hr.	(2 years experience)
(3)	Accountant	\$6.00/hr.	(2 years experience)
(165)	Construction Workers	\$5.55/hr.	(2 years experience)
(20)	Equipment Operator	\$5.55/hr.	(2 years experience)

Interested applicants may send their resume to
bmchen8@yahoo.com masseuse

Deadline to submit application will be end on January 15, 2014

Howard dominant, Rockets roll past Pistons, 114-97

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Dwight Howard had 35 points and 19 rebounds, leading the short-handed Houston Rockets to a 114-97 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Saturday night.

In one of his best games since joining the Rockets in the offseason, Howard dominated Andre Drummond, Detroit's promising 20-year-old big man, and helped Houston control the game despite the absence of star guard James Harden, who was out with a sprained right ankle.

The Rockets also were without Jeremy Lin, who has been bothered by back spasms, and they lost guard Patrick Beverley to a fractured right hand.

Josh Smith scored 19 points for the Pistons.

It was the most points Howard has scored as a member of the Rockets. He went 13 of 18 from the field.

Detroit blew a 20-point lead and allowed 72 points in the second half of Friday's loss to Charlotte. The Pistons again struggled defensively against Houston, especially against Howard.

Drummond looked over-matched as Howard scored 23 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in the first half. Houston led 61-53 at the half and 86-71 after three quarters.

Drummond's tip-in made it 92-82, but Howard responded by simply backing Drummond down again for two more points. Francisco Garcia's 3-pointer put the Rockets up 97-84.

The Pistons shot 1 of 12 from 3-point range, and they also missed a number of shots inside from point-blank range. Houston lost Friday at Indiana in a 114-81 rout, but the Rockets overcame all their injury problems against Detroit.

Chandler Parsons scored 20 points on 9-of-15 shooting for Houston, and Garcia added 16 points starting in place of Harden. Omri Casspi and Aaron Brooks had seven assists each off the bench.

Drummond finished with nine points, although he blocked four shots. Brandon

Jennings had eight points and 10 assists for Detroit before being ejected with 2:10 to go. After a foul call, a clearly frustrated Jennings tossed the ball away for one technical foul, then earned another for arguing.

Grizzlies 95, Knicks 87

In New York, Zach Randolph had 25 points and 15 rebounds to help Memphis break a five-game losing streak with a victory over New York.

Tony Allen added 19 points and eight rebounds. Jerryd Bayless scored 11 points, including two free throws to end a New York flurry that had trimmed a 19-point deficit to four in the final half-minute.

Mike Conley finished with nine points and eight assists after missing two games with a bruised left thigh.

Carmelo Anthony scored 30 points for the Knicks.

Wizards 106, Celtics 99

In Boston, Trevor Ariza scored 27 points and hit a 3-pointer that capped a fourth-quarter run in Washington's comeback victory over Boston.

With Washington trailing 92-84, Ariza started a 14-1 run with a jumper from the right corner. John Wall had five of his 20 points in the surge.

Avery Bradley led Boston with 26 points.

Kings 105, Magic 100

In Orlando, Florida, Rudy Gay and Isaiah Thomas each scored 23 points, Marcus Thornton added 15, and Sacramento held off Orlando for the victory.

DeMarcus Cousins added 14 points and 11 rebounds.

The Kings connected on a season-high 12 3-pointers in the victory, helping to end a three-game losing streak.

Arron Afflalo led Orlando with 26 points in his return to the lineup after sitting out for the first time this season Wednesday with an illness. The Magic have lost four out of their last five, and four straight at home.

Jazz 88, Bobcats 85

In Charlotte, North Carolina,



Houston Rockets center Dwight Howard (12) takes a shot against Detroit Pistons forward Josh Smith (6) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

Trey Burke scored 10 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter and Utah ended Charlotte's three-game winning streak.

Burke hit a 3-pointer with 1:38 left to put the Jazz up by three and added a pair of free throws with 10 seconds remaining.

Gordon Hayward had 12 points and 10 rebounds for Utah, which had lost three of their past four games. Derrick Favors added 14 points.

Kemba Walker scored 20 points and Al Jefferson had 19 for the Bobcats, who were playing their fourth game in five nights.

At halftime, Bobcats owner Michael Jordan unveiled the team's new primary logo for when the team changes names to the Charlotte Hornets after

this season.

Thunder 113, Spurs 100

In San Antonio, Russell Westbrook had 31 points and Oklahoma City used a strong second quarter to beat San Antonio for its ninth straight victory.

Reggie Jackson had 21 points, Kevin Durant added 17 and Serge Ibaka had 14 points and 14 rebounds for Oklahoma City.

Tony Parker scored 23 points, and Marco Belinelli and Tim Duncan had 17 points apiece for San Antonio, which took only its second home loss.

The Spurs had won six of seven entering Saturday's game.

Westbrook and Jackson were a combined 21 for 36 and handed out 12 assists.

Suns 123, Mavericks 108

In Phoenix, Eric Bledsoe scored

25 points and Phoenix matched its season high with 15 3-pointers—in 30 tries—to beat Dallas in the Suns' highest-scoring game of the season.

Gerald Green made 4 of 8 3-pointers en route to 22 points and Channing Frye made 4 of 6 3s and scored 18 in the Suns' seventh win in their last eight games. Bledsoe made 3 of 4 from beyond the arc. P.J. Tucker was 2 of 3 from long-range and scored 16.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 21 points, and Monta Ellis and Brandan Wright had 19 apiece for the Mavericks, whose only lead of the night was 2-0. The 123 points were the most allowed by Dallas this season.

Both teams were playing on consecutive nights.

Clippers 112, Nuggets 91

In Los Angeles, Jamal Crawford scored 27 points, hitting six 3-pointers, and Los Angeles led all the way in beating Denver for its fourth consecutive victory.

Blake Griffin added 24 points and 16 rebounds, and Chris Paul had 10 points and 11 assists for the Clippers, who got Matt Barnes back after he missed 16 games with an eye injury. DeAndre Jordan had 12 rebounds.

Wilson Chandler scored all of his 19 points in the first half and Timofey Mozgov had 15 points and nine rebounds for the Nuggets. They lost for the third straight game and for the third time in their last five. Ty Lawson added 13 points as Denver was held to 35 percent shooting.

Warriors 102, Lakers 83

In Oakland, California, David Lee had 19 points and 10 rebounds, Andrew Bogut grabbed 20 rebounds and Golden State shook off a slow start to rout injury-depleted Los Angeles.

Stephen Curry scored 18 points and Klay Thompson added 17 points to help the Warriors pull away with a 26-8 spurt to start the third quarter.

Pau Gasol sat out with an upper respiratory infection for the Lakers, who already were missing Kobe Bryant (fractured left knee), Steve Nash (nerve root irritation in back), Steve Blake (torn ligament in right elbow)

and Jordan Farmar (torn left hamstring).

Nick Young scored 20 points, and Chris Kaman had 17 rebounds and 10 points for the Lakers.

Trail Blazers 110, Pelicans 107

In Portland, Oregon, Damian Lillard hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:27 to play and finished with 29 points and Portland beat New Orleans to win for the sixth time in seven games.

Lamarcus Aldridge and Wesley Matthews added 18 points apiece for the Trail Blazers.

Ryan Anderson and Tyreke Evans each missed on 3-point attempts in the final 5 seconds and the Pelicans lost their fourth consecutive game on a five-game swing that concludes Monday at Sacramento.

Robin Lopez had 14 points and eight rebounds and Nicholas Batum added 11 points for the Trail Blazers.

Anthony Davis and Evans finished with 21 points each to pace five Pelicans in double figures.

Bucks 116, 76ers 106

In Milwaukee, Khris Middleton scored 27 points, Caron Butler added 22 and hot-shooting Milwaukee recovered from consecutive overtime losses to pick up just its sixth win of the season with a victory over Philadelphia.

Brandon Knight contributed 21 points and six assists for the Bucks (6-21). Butler, who missed the previous 12 games with a swollen left knee, also had 11 rebounds.

Thaddeus Young had 30 points and 10 rebounds to lead Philadelphia. Spencer Hawes added 25 points and 11 rebounds.

Both teams were coming off overtime games Friday. The Bucks lost 114-111 at Cleveland, their fifth consecutive defeat, while the 76ers nipped the Brooklyn Nets 121-120 at home.

Bulls 100, Cavaliers 84

In Chicago, Carlos Boozer scored 19 points and short-handed Chicago Bulls snapped a four-game losing streak with a win over Cleveland.

D.J. Augustin scored 18, Tony Snell came on strong in the second half to finish with 17 points, and Chicago prevailed after matching its longest slide in four years under coach Tom Thibodeau.

The Bulls shot nearly 54 percent overall and were 10 of 15 on 3-pointers.

Andrew Bynum had 19 points for the Cavaliers, but Kyrie Irving had a rough night, finishing with 14 points on 5-of-16 shooting after fighting through an illness to score 39 in Friday's overtime win over Milwaukee.

Dwyane Wade, Gabrielle Union engaged

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade and Gabrielle Union are engaged.

The Miami Heat star proposed to his longtime girlfriend Saturday and the actress accepted. They announced the news through social media, around the same time as the two-time defending NBA champions were gathering for a team Christmas party.

"She said YES!!!" Wade posted to his Twitter and Ins-

tagram accounts, with a photo of Union wearing a large diamond solitaire on the ring finger of her left hand.

It will be the second marriage for both Union, 41, and Wade, who turns 32 next month. No date has been announced, and the couple did not release any formal statements about the engagement Saturday night.

"A special evening," Heat managing general partner Micky Arison wrote on Twitter.

Added Adrienne Bosh, the wife of Heat forward Chris Bosh, also on Twitter: "The (at)MiamiHEAT Christmas party always brings great traditions and the BEST surprises."

Wade proposed to Union before the party. The couple have been together for several years and there were recent indications that marriage was in the plans—specifically how their Christmas cards had a return address sticker calling

them the "Wade-Union Family."

That's also referenced in the cards, which bear the message "Happy Holidays from the Wade-Union Family." The cards also show photos of Wade and Union together, along with photos of them with Wade's two sons and the nephew he's raising.

Wade was clearly in a giving mood Saturday. He presented each of his teammates from last season's champion-

ship run with green jackets, reminiscent of what golfers get for winning the Masters.

Wade is expected to publicly discuss the engagement on Sunday.

Wade has spent his entire pro career with the Heat since being drafted in 2003, helping the team win three championships and taking home MVP honors from the NBA Finals in 2006.

Union has starred in movies such as "Bring It On" and "Think Like A Man," along with the BET series "Being Mary Jane."

Source: Choo agrees to 7-year deal with Texas

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP SPORTS WRITER

The Rangers have made another Texas-sized deal to improve their offense.

Free agent outfielder Shin-Soo Choo agreed to a \$130 million, seven-year contract with the Rangers, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because there was no official announcement about the deal that is pending a physical for Choo. That person said the physical is expected to be done before Christmas, and that any formal introduction in Texas likely wouldn't come until after the holiday Wednesday.

The deal came a month after the Rangers acquired five-time All-Star first baseman Prince Fielder in a trade with Detroit for second baseman Ian Kinsler, their primary leadoff hitter.

Texas now gets the best offensive player left in free agency, with both additions to be under contract through the 2020 season.

Choo's deal, worth about \$18.6 million per season, is the third-highest this offseason. Second baseman Robinson Cano got \$240 million over 10 years from Seattle and outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury, like Choo, a client of agent Scott Boras, signed a \$153 million, seven-year contract with the New York



In this Aug. 7, 2013, file photo, Cincinnati Reds' Shin-Soo Choo runs to second base in the first inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics in Cincinnati. AP

Yankees.

Choo could be at the top or in the middle of the Texas lineup. He was Cincinnati's leadoff hitter for 143 games last season, when he had a .423 on-base percentage with 20 stolen bases and 21 home runs.

The Rangers missed the playoffs for the first time in four

years, with 730 runs scored their fewest in a non-strike season since 1992. Texas, which went to its only two World Series in 2010 and 2011 and lost in the AL's first wildcard game in 2012, lost at home to Tampa Bay in a wild-card tiebreaker.

Choo's deal calls for salaries of \$14 million in 2014 and 2015,

\$21 million in 2016 and 2017, and \$20 million in each of the last three years of the deal. He can earn a bonus for finishing in the top five of the AL MVP balloting—from \$250,000 as the winner to \$50,000 for fifth place. He would get a \$150,000 bonus for being a World Series MVP, and an additional \$100,000 for

being an AL championship series MVP or an All-Star, or for winning a Silver Slugger or Gold Glove award.

There will also be a limited no-trade clause, with Choo able each year to submit a list of 10 teams he can't be dealt to without his consent.

Fielder, a .286 career hitter,

was only two seasons into his \$214 million, nine-year contract with Detroit when he was traded to Texas. That deal includes \$30 million going back to the Rangers, though the first payment of \$4 million won't come until 2016, followed by \$6 million in 2017 and 2018, and \$7 million in 2019 and 2020.

Choo has a .288 career batting average and .389 OBP with 104 home runs and 427 RBIs in 853 major league games for Seattle (2005-06), Cleveland (2006-12) and Cincinnati. The 31-year-old South Korean had at least 20 homers and 20 stolen bases three times, including last season.

While Choo started 150 games for the Reds in center field, he will likely play left field for Texas. The Rangers have Leonys Martin in center and Alex Rios in right.

Choo's addition almost certainly closes the door on the possible return of slugger Nelson Cruz, who had 27 homers and 76 RBIs in his 109 games for Texas last season.

Cruz was suspended 50 games after Major League Baseball's investigation into a Florida clinic accused of distributing banned performance-enhancing drugs. The 2011 AL championship series MVP finished his suspension in time to play in the tiebreaker game against Tampa Bay.

Texas will lose its first-round pick by signing Choo, but would get a first-round pick back when Cruz, presumably, signs with another team.

MIAMI (AP)—Like many Cuban baseball stars, outfielder Leonys Martin dreamed of leaving the communist island for the bright lights and big money of Major League Baseball. Martin accomplished his goal in 2011 when he signed with the Texas Rangers, but not before what court documents and the Justice Department describe as a harrowing ordeal in which he was held for ransom in Mexico while his family members were kept under surveillance in South Florida.

Three people have been indicted in Miami on federal charges of hostage-taking and extortion conspiracy—counts that carry potential life prison sentences if they are convicted—and Martin himself is suing his alleged kidnappers for the return of more than \$1.3 million he has already paid them.

Andrew Zimbalist, a Smith College professor who specializes in sports economics, said the Martin case appears unique.

"I have never heard of a kidnapping case like this," Zimbalist said.

Many Cubans have defected over the years to play ball in the U.S., including such current stars as Cincinnati

Court docs: Rangers' Martin victim in ransom plot



In this Sept. 30, 2013 file photo, Texas Rangers' Leonys Martin dives for a ball by Tampa Bay Rays' Ben Zobrist during the seventh inning of an American League wild-card tiebreaker baseball game, in Arlington, Texas. AP

Reds pitcher Aroldis Chapman, Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig and Oakland Athletics outfielder Yoenis Cespedes. In September, the Cuban government reversed decades of policy by announcing that its athletes will be allowed to sign contracts to compete in foreign leagues without defecting.

Compared the vast major-

ity of immigrants, Cubans get unique treatment by the U.S. government under the "wet foot, dry foot" policy that came about during the Cold War. Cubans who reach U.S. soil are generally allowed to stay in this country, while those intercepted outside the U.S. are sent back home.

Martin, 25, a speedy center

fielder for the Rangers, made his MLB debut in September 2011. Last season, in 147 games, he hit .260 with 49 runs batted in and 36 stolen bases. Martin and his attorney, Paul Minoff, declined comment for this story, as did the Rangers and MLB officials, citing the ongoing litigation.

A few years before joining Texas, Martin was a rising star

in Cuba, traveling to baseball tournaments around the globe with the national team. After an August 2010 tournament in Japan, according to his lawsuit, he decided to leave for the U.S.

He and several family members and friends made contact with a man who offered them a trip from Cuba on a yacht to Cancun, Mexico. From there, they could eventually cross by land into the U.S. But instead of journeying directly north, they were taken to a house lined inside with mattresses and watched by two armed men, one of them identified as Eliezer Lazo.

"You are worth a lot," Lazo told Martin, according to the lawsuit. "I am not going to let you go."

Lazo is one of the three people charged criminally in the Miami federal indictment. He is currently serving more than five years in federal prison in Mississippi for money laundering and other crimes related to South Florida health care fraud scam. Lazo has not yet entered a plea in the Martin case and court records do not show a lawyer for him.

Eventually, Martin and other unidentified Cuban players were taken to a compound called "The Ranch" near Monterrey,

Mexico, where they were supposed to train. Martin's family and friends were taken across the U.S. border at Laredo, Texas, and put on a bus to Miami where they would live for five months in a townhouse owned by Lazo, according to the lawsuit.

In Mexico, there was a nearby baseball field where the players would train and play games before U.S. scouts, and Martin was introduced to another man he was told would be his agent. He was also told he had to sign a contract with an entity linked to Lazo called Estrellas del Beisbol (Baseball Stars) in which he promised to pay 30 percent of any future salary or bonuses - well above the 5 percent players typically pay.

"Martin had no choice but to sign it (as did the other players with him) considering that they were all being held hostage," Martin's lawsuit says.

Even though Martin did eventually pay Estrellas del Beisbol \$1.35 million, the Mexican-based entity claimed in a 2012 lawsuit that Martin wasn't living up to this contract. In his lawsuit, Martin claims it should be declared void because he signed it "under extreme fear and duress" and seeks return of his money.

NFL teams can rescue bad seasons in spoiler role

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Their seasons a mess, the Vikings, Steelers and Rams took their spoiler roles seriously.

Good for them. Too often, when teams are out of the running for the postseason, they pack it in (Redskins, Giants, Raiders) for December, thinking more about vacations than victories. Last week showed that Minnesota, Pittsburgh and St. Louis haven't done any such thing.

"I knew our guys would play hard. I knew that they would give everything they had and the fact that we were playing at home, I felt like that would give us a boost, energize us," Vikings coach Leslie Frazier said after his team, minus top running backs Adrian Peterson and Toby Gerhart, stunned NFC East leader Philadelphia. "I don't think you can ever count out our players and we've had some difficult moments this season for sure."

"I think you have to credit the leaders on this football team. We have some strong guys who they prepare, they work hard and they kind of make sure our locker room stays the way it needs, and that's unified and not let it splinter."

They didn't in Minnesota, and on Sunday the Vikings (4-9-1) could put a dent in another division leader's aspirations when they visit Cincinnati.

The Steelers emulated Minnesota last Sunday night with their whipping of the AFC North's top dog, the Bengals. This weekend, like the Vikes, they get another shot to play spoiler, at Green Bay.

Seeing how Mike Tomlin's team responded against a bitter division rival should make Steelers fans proud. Sure, they're used to much more success than that—three Super Bowl trips in the last decade could, well, spoil them.

"We're just trying to win games and show people that the guys on this team and the coaches, they want to play," veteran safety Ryan Clark said. "They have a lot of fight left in them."

It's not easy to keep that fighting spirit alive in December for players who will be heading home come January. Herm Edwards has been on both sides, coaching playoff-bound teams trying to avoid being upset, and guiding losing clubs when they faced contenders.



Minnesota Vikings running back Matt Asiata (44) celebrates with teammate Rhett Ellison after scoring on a 1-yard touchdown run during the second half of an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013, in Minneapolis.

Edwards believes it's up to the coaching staff to set the tone, and that means for the entire season, not just the final few weeks. The coaches must put together a strong locker room with players who recognize their jobs always can be on the line, players who remind teammates of that fact whenever necessary.

A few wins at the end of the season also carry a team into

the offseason with a far better outlook, maybe even with some momentum.

"It is about preparing every week to win a game," said Edwards, now a commentator for ESPN. "You don't worry about the schedule or how many games you've won or lost."

Edwards thinks contenders are at a disadvantage in many games against spoilers, particu-

larly if the team on the outskirts of the playoffs or completely eliminated is relatively talented. He pointed to San Diego's win over Denver in Week 15.

"It doesn't surprise," said Edwards, who brought the Jets to the playoffs three times and the Chiefs once. "If a coach is with a winning team and it's playoff bound, those are the ones you really get nervous about,

playing a team you know will come out loose and really play you hard, especially early in that game. As a coach, you make sure you and the players don't panic and try to win the game in the first quarter and get away from your game plan. That's the worst thing you can do."

Potential spoilers are everywhere this weekend.

Aside from the Vikings at Cincinnati and Steelers at Green Bay, how about the Giants at Detroit and the Falcons at San Francisco? Washington hosts Dallas, Houston is home for Denver, and Buffalo entertains Miami.

Plenty of opportunity for upheaval in the playoff races.

But Edwards thinks the enthusiasm for these games still should be heavily slanted toward the contender.

"When you're trying to get into the playoffs, you almost have to back off the energy they are bringing every day and make them calm down," he said. "They are excited. There's a different air about the whole end of the season when you are going for the playoffs."

"You just want to make sure these guys understand about paying attention to the details, and that we have to win this game because it's this week's game, no matter who it's against."

DOCOMO

From Page 28

giving San Antonio a chance to either equalize the game with a 2-point shot or grab the lead with a triple. However, San Antonio also committed an error with Bryle Alegre's crosscourt pass to Salem picked up by Lance Reeves.

The erratic plays in the home-stretch continued, as Paraiso was called for the travelling violation when he tried to squeeze into the defense of San Antonio. San Antonio then sued for time to set up a crucial play in the last 15.6 seconds of the game.

The game resumed with

Aranda making the inbound and passing the leather to Salem who drove strong to the basket too early and faltered on his floater. A frustrated Salem then went over the back of Camacho, who positioned himself well in the paint to pluck the important rebound.

While Camacho's clutch plays lifted Docomo to the close victory, it was Paraiso's consistent inside game in the first three quarters that helped the champion team stay afloat despite falling behind early. San Antonio took a 14-2 lead in the first four minutes of play before Paraiso brought the team back into the game, as his 8 points cut the deficit to 4, 18-22.

San Antonio remained on top at halftime, 36-29, but had a major meltdown in the third quarter to trail by as much as 13-points in that canto. San Antonio was held to 2 points in the first eight minutes of the third period and failed to neutralize Paraiso, who exploded for 14 points in that frame to give Docomo its biggest lead, 51-38.

It was San Antonio's turn to play catch up in the fourth and it managed to tie the game, 60-all, off Jaymark De Guzman's baseline drive, 3:54 left in the match. However, Marlon Sison scored 7 straight points to put Docomo back in the lead before San Antonio launched another comeback,

but fell short in the end.

Meanwhile, in the battle for third place, Island Floral routed I Love Saipan, 107-80.

Island Floral led by only 9 in the third period, but turned on the heat in the fourth, firing 31 points against the 13 of I Love Saipan to nail the 27-point winning margin.

Jun Tabora sizzled for 34 points for Island Flora, while Cecilio Bisana chipped in 26. I Love Saipan's Mike Olaitiman led all scorers with his 43 markers.

First Game

Island Floral 107 – Tabora 34, Bisana 26, Jugos 13, Tere-

geyo 10, Norita 9, Tobias 9, Mateo 2, Barrozo 2.

I Love Saipan 80 – Olaitiman 43, Ruluked 16, Cristobal 8, Lontoc 4, Aldan 3, Rabago 2, Camacho 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-15, 52-41, 76-67, 107-80.

Second Game

Docomo Pacific 72 – Paraiso 28, Camacho 12, Sison 12, Villacrusis 9, Montes 2, Reeves 2, Tudela 2.

San Antonio 69 – Alegre 17, Aranda 14, Salem 13, Caro 8, Jo. Villanueva 6, Espinosa 4, Cadiang 2, De Guzman 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-22, 29-36, 55-44, 72-69.

REN

From Page 28

ing in Melbourne.

"Carol did well in her first tournament in Australia. Now, it is Michael and Chris's turn. Michael has been hitting the ball so strong the past few weeks and is very prepared for the tournament in Australia," Race said in a telephone interview with Saipan Tribune yesterday.

"Chris is now based in Guam with his parents, but is still representing the CNMI. I

have been in contact with his coach in Guam and I was told Chris is training so hard for the off-island tournament," the CNMI mentor added.

The three CNMI players are scheduled to participate in two tournaments in the Land Down Under next year. First up for the Commonwealth bets is the 2014 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup, which will run from Jan. 3 to 7 at the Albury Grasscourts, in Albury, New South Wales. From Albury, the select squad will go to

Victoria for the 2014 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships, which will take place at the Wodonga Tennis Centre from Jan. 8 to 12.

Meanwhile, Lee is now in Fiji as she waits for the tournament in Australia. She is training at the ITF facility at the Robin Mitchell Regional Training Centre in Lautoka. Tammy Ackerman, another CNMI junior player, is also at the training facility, according to Race.

Lee went to Fiji last week after a two-weeklong stay in

Melbourne where she competed and trained at the National Tennis Centre. The 11-year-old Lee topped the consolation draw of girls U14 singles event of the 2013 Tennis World JT Bronze held at the Tennis World-Melbourne Park in Victoria.

Lee notched two wins against ranked foes in the qualifying tournament to advance to the main draw. She then prevailed in her opening match in the main draw before losing her second round assignment. Lee

then bounced back and won her last four matches to make it to the podium.

The CNMI's top U12 player, Ren, and Cajigan earned slots on the touring team after their notable performances in the 2013 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in August this year. Lee took both the girls U12 singles and doubles crown (with Tania Tan) in the POJC, while Ren and Cajigan made it to the finals of the boys U12 and U15 singles, respectively.

BANMI

From Page 28

is hosting a football camp this holiday season.

BANMI is starting off with the scoretable official course that is divided into five sessions. The first three are set for Jan. 6, 7, and 9, from 4:30pm to 7:30pm, while the fourth session (Jan. 11) will be a whole-day

affair with the morning course running from 8:30am to 12pm and the afternoon session from 1:30pm to 6pm. The course will end on Jan. 14 with a session from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

Only the first 15 individuals to register on or before Jan. 6 (1pm) are allowed to take the scoretable official course.

The same limit and registration deadline will be imple-

mented in the Level 0/1 basketball referee course that is spread in four sessions. The first two sessions are schedule for Jan. 18 and 19, while the last two are slated for Jan. 25 and 26. The morning sessions are from 8:30am to 12pm, while the afternoon's are from 1:30pm to 6pm.

For more information, contact Gabriel White at 234-6548

or send email to 731ekul@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, the NMIFA/SSS' holiday football camp will kick off today. The Monday session from 9am to 11am at the Oleai Sports Complex field is for players in the girls U14 boys age group. The next two sessions (Dec. 24 and 26) are for U14 and U16 girls, while the boys U14 participants will

have their turn on Dec. 27. Another session for girls U16 and U16 will be held on Dec. 28.

For the second and last week of the camp, the boys U14 participants will attend the sessions on Dec. 31, Jan. 2, and Jan. 4, while the Dec. 30 and Jan. 3 dates are reserved for players in the girls U14 and U16 age groups. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	12	16	.429	—
Toronto	10	14	.417	—
Brooklyn	9	17	.346	2
New York	8	18	.308	3
Philadelphia	8	20	.286	4

Southeast Division

Miami	20	6	.769	—
Atlanta	15	12	.556	5 1/2
Washington	12	13	.480	7 1/2
Charlotte	13	15	.464	8
Orlando	8	19	.296	12 1/2

Central Division

Indiana	21	5	.808	—
Detroit	13	16	.448	9 1/2
Chicago	10	16	.385	11
Cleveland	10	16	.385	11
Milwaukee	6	21	.222	15 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	21	6	.778	—
Houston	18	10	.643	3 1/2
Dallas	15	12	.556	6
New Orleans	11	14	.440	9
Memphis	11	15	.423	9 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	22	4	.846	—
Portland	23	5	.821	—
Denver	14	12	.538	8
Minnesota	13	14	.481	9 1/2
Utah	8	22	.267	16

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	19	9	.679	—
Phoenix	16	10	.615	2
Golden State	15	13	.536	4
L.A. Lakers	13	14	.481	5 1/2
Sacramento	8	18	.308	10

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

WPS, Saipan Little League receive early gifts

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Whispering Palms and Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc got early Christmas presents last week.

Whispering Palms bagged two championships, a week before the Christmas break. The Navy Hill-based school won both the girls and boys U12 division of the 2013 NMIFA/PSS Interscholastic League. In the boys U12 division finals, Whispering Palms edged Saipan International School with Sunjoon Tenorio making the winning goal for the champion squad. In the girls finale, Guinevere Borja scored the lone goal in Whispering Palms' 1-0 conquest of San Antonio Elementary School.

SLLB, Inc. was on an off-season, but still received an early Christmas gift from Saipan World Resort, which donated \$10,000 for the youth program. The donation will be used for the Saipan Little League's 2014 season, which is set to kick off on Jan. 17.

In other notable events last week, two MMA fighters kept their division championship after recording wins in Trench Warz 17: Night of the Champions. Heavyweight champion Mylo "Bam Bam" Lassiter won



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Whispering Palms players and coaches pose with their trophies after sweeping the 2013 NMIFA/PSS Interscholastic League last week at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

via tapout (arm choke) against challenger Neil "The Lionheart" Taisacan just 40 minutes into the first round of their five-round title bout.

In the featherweight title match, Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas retained his crown after earning submission win via

arm bar against Zalaka's Jordan "The Machine" Manglona 1:47 into the first round.

Also regaining title victories were husband and wife Percy and Gloria Omechelang. Percy ruled the Saipan Bowling Association/Budweiser December King of the Lanes Tournament,

while Gloria prevailed in the Queen of the Lanes roll-offs.

In badminton, Saipan Badminton Club clinched its third straight championship after beating Shirley's Badminton Club in the finals of the 7th Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament at the TSL Sports

Complex.

In basketball, the DL Corp. caging was down to two teams with San Antonio surviving Island Floral in the second semis game and Docomo cruising past I Love Saipan in the first Final Four match at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

At the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion across the Oleai Sports Complex, 88 runners lined up for the start of Saipan Swim Club's 7th Annual Jingle Bell Fun Run. Saipan Southern High School's Seida Eda went on to lead the finishers in the 4.5-kilometer race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas, right, answers the questions of ring announcer L.J. Castro after beating Zalaka's Jordan "The Machine" Manglona 1:47 in Trench Warz 17: Night of the Champions last week at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

San Antonio's Nevin Salem, left, plays tough defense on Island Floral's Cecilio Bisana during the fourth quarter of their semis game in the DL Corp. caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan World Resort officials meet with Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. officers during a donation turnover ceremony at the Lilac Room of the Susupe hotel last week.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two runners competing in the 7th Annual SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run head back to the start/finish line via Beach Road.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SBA/Budweiser December Queen of the Lanes Gloria Omechelang is flanked by runners-up Elena Soll, left, and Kathy Mersai during the brief awards ceremony of the monthly tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center last week.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mylo "Bam Bam" Lassiter smiles as referee Tony D'Angelo proclaims him as the winner of his heavyweight bout against Neil "The Lionheart" Taisacan in last week's Trench Warz 17: Night of the Champions at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.



**Howard dominant,
Rockets roll past
Pistons, 114-97**
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**Source: Choo
agrees to 7-year
deal with Texas**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Docomo takes DL Corp. caging crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Docomo Pacific eked out a thrilling 72-69 victory over San Antonio to bag the championship in the 2nd DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Juan Camacho delivered for Docomo in the homestretch, collaring a rebound, canning a free throw, and making a steal in the last 7.5 seconds of the down-to-the-wire title game. The lanky forward grabbed the rebound after Nevin Salem overshot his mark and gave up a preemptive foul on Camacho. The former CNMI national swimmer missed his first charity, but made the second one, lifting Docomo to a 3-point lead, 72-69.

With no time-out left, San Antonio was forced to do the inbound play from the backcourt and to save time, Ezra Caro rolled the ball down toward Salem near the Docomo bench. However, the ploy backfired on San Antonio, as Camacho, who was near the midcourt line, came rushing toward Salem and dove for the ball for the crucial steal. San Antonio then committed a foul anew, sending Erwin Gomez to the 15-foot line for a pair of free throws. Gomez muffed both shots and with 3.1 sec-

onds left on the clock, J.P. Vilanueva threw up a prayer from the backcourt, but failed to hit the miracle basket, as his shot did not even hit the rim as time expired.

Docomo had to rely on the Camacho's heroics in the closing seconds of the finals after slowly wasting a 9-point lead in the last 1:50 of the game, 71-62. San Antonio launched a 7-0 run in about a minute to threaten Docomo. The rally started with Jack Aranda draining two free throws and then Caro connecting an undergoal shot. Docomo faltered anew on its next offensive set, while San Antonio missed four straight point-blank shot on the other end before Aranda connected on a booming triple to slice the deficit to 2, 69-71, 42.3 seconds left on the clock.

Docomo lost possession in the ensuing play with Camacho's kick-out pass to Paraiso intercepted by Nevin Salem, See **DOCOMO** on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Docomo Pacific's Juan Camacho goes for a reverse layup against San Antonio's Ezra Caro during the third quarter of their title game in the DL Corp. caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Ren, Cajigan to compete in Australia



Chris Cajigan, third from left, and Michael Ren, sixth from left, are seen here posing with their CNMI teammates and other participants in the 2013 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji this year.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two more CNMI junior tennis players are joining the Pacific Oceania Touring Team to compete in Australia.

CNMI coach Jeff Race said Michael Ren and Chris Cajigan are leaving for the Land Down Under this week and will be reunited with fellow Commonwealth player Carol Lee. Lee left Saipan early this month to be with the elite touring team and spent the first few weeks competing and training.

See **REN** on Page 26



BANMI hosts courses; NMIFA, SSS hold camp



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Johann Noetzel, standing fifth from left, talks to Tinian players before starting a camp on Tinian mid this year. NMIFA and Saipan Soccer School is holding a holiday football camp, starting today.

Basketball Association of Northern Marianas Islands is holding two free course next month, while Northern Mari-

ana Islands Football Association in collaboration with Saipan Soccer School See **BANMI** on Page 26

